

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Injured hockey player taken to Toronto by helicopter...
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THE RIGHT STUFF

Christine Hardy thinks of others... see page 17

COLD LAND,
WARM HEARTS

Exchange students discover Highlands hospitality... see page 19

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1994

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY

ECHO

"The Voice of the Highlands Since 1882"

Vol. 112, No. 6 • 28 pages • 65 Cents + GST = 70 Cents

A landlord's hard lesson

■ A cautionary tale of the human and financial costs of renting out a home.

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

The sheriffs came promptly that morning, at the appointed hour. The tenant was just leaving. He drove off down the road, his truck laden with bags and boxes, only minutes before the eviction deadline.

After he left, Jim and the sheriffs went into the house. Jim saw with relief that there was minimal damage to the interior.

The four months of torment — filled with court appearances, form filling, and worried visits to his banker — were over.

The sheriffs departed, job done. The tenant was gone. As the landlord, Jim had his house back.

But he and his wife Jane were left with the human and financial cost of a bad tenant who didn't pay his rent.

They were left with \$1,350 of uncollected rent, a \$5,000 bill for a septic system clogged with food and other debris, a health department notice that would prevent them from renting again, and a warning from the bank that

it could call in their mortgage because they were behind on the payments.

"After this we're almost afraid to rent again," said Jane Smith. (The real names of the people involved in this story have not been used. They are residents of Haliburton County).

The Smiths are telling their tale as a warning to others who might venture into the home rental business.

They admit that they made mistakes. But they also found out how difficult it is to rectify those mistakes.

The couple first rented out their home more than a year ago. They'd just bought a new business and needed help to get them through the first tough years.

So they decided to move into the residence adjoining the business and rent out their home to pay the mortgage.

Now they are threatened with the loss of that home, and are struggling with the emotional strain of the past few months, at a time when all their energies should be focussed on their new business.

Their first tenants were excellent. As new landlords the Smiths had been a little concerned because, like almost a third of the county, the renters were jobless

and depended on welfare to pay their rent. But the tenants paid promptly, were good neighbours and Jim and Jane were grateful for the extra income.

But after a year the tenants left. And that's when the Smiths made their first mistake.

"It was getting to the end of the month, we'd had four people look but none of them rented," said Jim Smith.

They were beginning to worry about missing a month's rent.

Then Jim got a call from a man who said he had just lost his home, he owned some undeveloped property and would need to rent for a while. He had children, he was desperate.

"My husband felt sorry for him," said Jane.

"He talked a good story," said Jim.

The man looked at the house and said he loved it and would take it immediately.

First rule, don't succumb to pressure to rent. One missed month of tenancy is better than many missed rent payments.

Second rule. Get references. Previous landlords and employers are the best. In this case the Smiths only discovered much later that the man they'd thought was a financially secure property

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County dumps waste and planning department

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The county's planning and waste management department has become a victim of the recession.

And while it may be the first casualty of this year's budget talks, many councillors fear that it won't be the last.

"We're desperate and we've got to do something and I think this is just the beginning," says Sherborne et al Reeve Ross Rabjohn, a long-time advocate of both planning and waste management.

After a marathon session on Wednesday, county council decided to close its planning and waste management department. It means a budget savings of \$106,000 but puts three people out of work, halts work on a county official plan and sees the end of a co-ordinated waste management strategy.

But like Rabjohn, who was chairman of the waste management committee, most councillors say they don't have any other choice.

Just to pay for last year's deficits and maintain the current level of service, county council is

faced with a 30 percent budget increase. Most programs that it oversees are mandated by the province; planning and waste management are among the few services the county has control over. Therefore, these departments were the first to be cut.

"We've got to do something and this is the start," says county Warden Jim McMahon. "It's a fact of life we can't be everything to everybody... It's part of the scaling down of county operations and looking at what services are mandated and how we can best deliver them."

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Scott Saunders (left), from Hamilton, pulling his snowmobile out of the Head/Grass Lakes narrows. He jumped safely to shore when his machine went through the ice last Thursday. Earlier in the week two local snowmobilers weren't so lucky. See the story at right.

Act of heroism saves lives of two locals

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

An act of bravery, some quick thinking, and a lot of luck saved the lives of two snowmobilers on Boshkung Lake last week.

Wes Smith and his passenger Harold Harrison were crossing Boshkung Lake near Buttermilk Falls on the afternoon of February 14 when their snowmobile went through the ice.

Trapped in the freezing water and unable to get out onto the ice floes, the men's cries for help were heard by two drivers passing on Highway 35, above the lake.

One of the drivers, Stanhope resident Garth Mole, took a rope and crawled out across the thin ice to hoist the two men out of the water and to safety.

He was only just in time. "The guy was yelling 'Hurry up, Harry isn't gonna make it,'" said Mole.

The snowmobilers were hospitalized briefly but, apart from a good scare, escaped unscathed.

In typical hero fashion, Mole was reticent about his act of bravery.

"It wasn't much of an act," Mole told the Echo last Friday.

The ice in that area of the lake was very thin but Mole said he had to do something.

"You just don't think of it (the danger)," said Mole, who is a volunteer firefighter with the Stanhope fire department.

The two survivors were well aware of the danger Mole put himself in.

They'd been heading out to a cottage on the lake to clear snow off the roof and were laden down with equipment when they tried to drive across the thin ice.

Amidst a few jokes about testing the water for the polar bears, a sheepish Smith admitted he'd been out too close to the rushing water off the falls.

"I'm very grateful they risked coming out there for us," said Smith.

Mole attributed the rescue to good fortune as well as any act of bravery.

"Someone up there must be looking out for them," he said, because Mole and a second rescuer Cecil Penney, almost missed seeing the two men in the water.

"I thought it was ducks out there flopping on the water," said Penney, who was the first to pull his truck over and stop. "But when I opened my window I could hear them yelling."

Mole had been travelling behind Penney north on Highway 35 and had also noticed a movement on the lake out of the corner

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Devastating fire like a death in the family

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The loss of the Westside Jug City in Minden has been "like a death in the family," says one of the owners.

"There's a lot of devastation," says Brian Moore, one of the seven members of the extended Moore family who has a hand in running the business. However, because they own four other convenience stores, "we've had to just mobilize ourselves and not dwell on it."

On Valentine's Day, fire spread from the back of the Jug City complex on Hwy 35 in Minden. By the time the fire was out, the store, the company's office and a warehouse was destroyed. Moore is just grateful that no one was hurt. His brother's house next to the store was also saved.

The Fire Marshall's Office has been called in to investigate. A preliminary report has been completed and while the Minden OPP says the cause of the fire is not suspicious, all details cannot be

released until the final report is ready.

Moore also wants to wait until the report is finalized before commenting on the cause of the fire. However, one of the reasons that there was so much damage is that the fire was not noticed for quite a few minutes. The fire started in a back storage area.

"By the time we realized there was a fire, there was little we could do," says Moore. Between the time the fire was reported to the Minden department and the first firefighters arrived, only seven minutes elapsed. And as Fire Chief Bill Hogg says, "by the time we got there, it was pretty well fully involved."

"I came up out of the basement with a friend who was buying roses for Valentine's Day," says Moore. "We smelt smoke. How long the fire was going, I couldn't tell. You could see smoke coming out the door between the back buildings. Within a minute it went from heavy smoke to full flame."

The buildings were made of

wood and the store is a former marine repair shop so it's possible that there was oil and gas from boat engines in the floor.

Hogg says that 16 Minden firefighters responded to the call, which was received just before 3:30. As soon as he arrived, he started some men with water pumps and then called Mutual Aid. Ten Dysart firefighters and 14 from Stanhope were there a short time later. "The fire department were fantastic," Moore says.

At first, water was used from a pumper truck and a fire hydrant. A second fire hydrant was frozen, but Hogg said that did not affect their firefighting abilities. It was needed more for back-up and was not essential.

As soon as the fire was noticed, the pumps at the Cango gas bar, which is owned by Leon Wright, were turned off. All gas is stored under ground and Moore says there was never as much chance of the gas exploding as people feared. "It's not like on televi-

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WHERE THERE'S SMOKE: Firefighters from Minden, Dysart and Stanhope tried to save Jug City in Minden on Valentine's Day. Unfortunately, all was lost. Our thanks to Shirley Jenkins-Duff of Minden for sharing this photo.

Here, There and Everywhere...

Like any journalist, Echo Editor Martha Perkins would not mind seeing her name on a front page article in the *Toronto Star*. But she was a bit taken aback when she read a front page article in Sunday's *Star* entitled "Are we becoming a nation of cheats?" The first paragraph reads "Money isn't a major problem for Martha Perkins. She has a job, a house and can afford to maintain her chain-smoking habit." The writer had chosen a pseudonym, and who would have expected her to chose Martha Perkins (and especially for a not-so-nice person?) Let it be known the real Martha Perkins doesn't smoke nor does she avoid paying the GST. She's also not accustomed to the name Martha being used to describe someone younger than 80!! Let's just hope that Revenue Canada didn't read the article and come a-calling...

Who says that growing up in a small town is a disadvantage for our young people? Jeff Stamp, who grew up in Haliburton, is going to be a summer intern at CNN in Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating from Ryerson's Radio and Television Arts program in the spring, Jeff will be flying down to the cable network's headquarters for some "hands on" experience with "Show Biz Today." He hopes that eventually he'll be able to do some stories on his own. Jeff is the son of the proud Kim and Derrell Stamp.

Speaking of the achievements of someone who grew up in a small town, it must have seemed as if half of West Guilford was in Toronto on Wednesday night. The New Jersey Devils were taking on the Toronto Maple Leafs at Maple Leaf Gardens and local fans were there to cheer on the Devils' Bernie Nicholls. The son of Marjorie and George Nicholls, Bernie grew up in West Guilford and as the crowd attested, he certainly still has a lot of family and friends who will happily make the drive to Toronto to cheer him on. Unfortunately, the Devils lost 2-1.

And speaking of hockey... Derek Glendinning, a 16-year-old student at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, was chosen Rookie of the Year for the Central Ontario Junior C league. This is Derek's first year with the Bobcaygeon Bullets and in a Lindsay Post article, head coach Paul Lees says "Glendinning is just learning but once he gets used to junior hockey, he's going to be a good one." Derek is the son of Ted and Betty Glendinning of Haliburton, and he is not sure of his hockey plans.

Fifteen women from Haliburton County are heading up to Sudbury on the weekend to try to convince organizers of Women on Snow that the snowmobile event should come to the Highlands for the next three years. Haliburton is "neck in neck" with North Bay as potential hosts and the women have been asked to make another presentation on Saturday night. This is Sudbury's last year of hosting the popular event, which is expected to bring women snowmobilers to the area for a weekend each winter.

Nancy Brink is certainly doing a good job of making sure the Echo staff is well-nourished. Last week she brought us a tray of fruit and Valentine's goodies. By that afternoon, the tray was empty. Our thanks to her and the Sunday Supper Club for their generosity.

On the night of Valentine's Day, the guests at the Domain of Killien were taken back in time when a knight in shining armour walked into the dining room. He walked over to a table where a lone woman was sitting, dropped down on one knee and asked this fair maiden if she would become his betrothed. (The knight had shipped the costume to the resort a few days earlier and had slipped out of the dining room to change.) After she got over her astonishment, the maiden said yes and there were loud cheers from the surrounding guests. For another rather spectacular proposal, read this week's Boonieville.

If you have any ideas of how we can best market the Highlands, don't forget to attend the second Business-to-Business get-together. Sponsored by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the informal meeting tonight (Feb. 22) at Wig-a-Mog Inn gives local business owners a chance to meet each other and share ideas. Tonight's special guest is county warden, Jim McMahon.

The NDP have opened a campaign office in Lindsay at 96 Albert Street South, K9V 3H7, phone 324-4172 and fax 324-2063. The campaign manager for candidate Art Field is Mary Smith. Premier Bob Rae plans to visit the riding on February 25 but a complete agenda has yet to be finalized. In other campaign news, Liberal Sharon McCrae will be in Minden on Thursday, campaigning at Hwy 35 businesses and Hyland Crest.

The Toronto Sportsmen's Show is March 11 to 20 at the Coliseum Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto, and features presentations from hundreds of businesses. Focus will be on a Wild West Rodeo Review, fishing, wildfowl carving, "callin' classic", pets, archery, the Ministry of Natural Resources' youth programs and the Ontario Sports Centre. For more information contact (416) 695-0311.

Pitch In Ontario is gearing up for this year's clean up campaign. If you or your organization want to do a little outdoor spring cleaning, Pitch In can provide organization kits and plastic bags. For more information, please contact Linda Amor, P.O. Box 2800, Peterborough, K9J 8L5.

County's survival calls for service cuts

Continued from page 1

As Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Bern Berry says "We're in a survival mode. We have no other alternatives."

Berry is acutely aware that councils aren't the only ones facing tough economic decisions. With high unemployment and welfare rates, he and other councillors believe most property taxpayers simply cannot afford a tax increase. "We can't afford to have double-digit increase figures in an area where people are fighting for existence," he told the Echo.

A long-time opponent of the county department, Berry says that decision was still difficult to make. "No one likes to do what happened. No one takes delight in it... The department is a victim of the times."

Planning has long been a bone of contention among councillors. For months they've been debating such questions as: Is a county official plan necessary? What

should it include? How much should it cost? Who should do it? There was a vote in October to stop work on the OP but it was narrowly defeated. As well, there have been deep divisions over waste management. The idea of a county dump was abandoned but attempts to co-ordinate recycling were stymied when some councils wanted to be able to opt out.

Another factor is the hiring of Terry Noble as treasurer. His reading of the county's financial picture has literally frightened councillors into re-thinking their priorities and abilities to provide services.

Before even dealing with this year's budget, council has to worry about last year's deficits: \$65,000 for social services; \$280,000 for roads; \$16,000 for Children's Aid Society; and were it not for an emergency bail out from the province, more than \$200,000 for Hyland Crest.

The demise of the departments puts three people out of work:

planner and economic development officer Mark Stagg; and his assistants, Tamara Wilbee and Leith Douglas, who was on a temporary contract to replace Michelle Costello. Council's decision comes into effect April 1, and Stagg did not want to publicly comment on it until he has a chance to meet with council. It is expected that he will be able to take advantage of the municipal workers association's retirement plan. There is also some social contract assistance available to public employees who have lost their jobs to budget cuts.

In a recorded vote, Sherborne et al Deputy-reeve Hans Liebmann was the only person to vote against closing the departments. (Dysart et al Reeve Chris Hodgson was not present; nor was the Echo. The regular meeting ended at 5 p.m. and then council went into committee of the whole. The vote was taken just before 8 p.m.)

"Too much money has been spent (on the plans) and we're almost halfway through," Liebmann says of why he didn't want the work to stop.

Although precise figures are not available, it has been estimated that \$300,000 has been spent on the plans, with part of the funding coming from the provincial government.

However, Liebmann also recognizes that "the fear of raising taxes is just too great and we would have had to do that (to keep the programs running)."

All is not lost, says Rabjohn. On Monday, he was in Toronto to tell the Ministry of the Environment that the guidelines for the waste management master plan were too onerous and lengthy, and therefore too costly.

As well, many municipalities are involved in recycling and doing more on the local level.

In spite of all the budget woes, Rabjohn says that the county's saving grace is the high level of volunteerism. "The volunteer movement in Haliburton is just tremendous. It's going to be the salvation of the county."

Jug City will rise from the ashes says Moore

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sion," he says.

There was an incredible amount of smoke billowing up from the buildings. At one point, Hwy 35 had to be closed, and the smoke could be seen for miles around.

Hogg and nine of his men stayed the night because he was worried about potential flare-ups and the gas pumps. "We secured the scene and kept putting water on it all the time." As well, a pair of Brinks workers stayed in their truck at the site overnight because the store contained a cash machine.

Because the Minden location was also their office and storage area, the Moores quickly had to go back to business. They have set up a temporary office above Highlands Jewellers and are

securing a new warehouse area. They are hoping that there will be little disruption to their four other Westside Jug City stores and also that work can be found for the Minden employees at the other locations.

Also lost in the fire was Sonya's Unisex Hairstyling.

Asked if they plan to rebuild the Minden store, Moore said "Damn right! In our minds there are no ifs, ands or buts."

The Moores had a lot of emotional investment in the Minden location, which contained a phone album of their 14 years of business, as well as special plaques and presentations.

"If there's one word that sums it all up, it's frustration - to watch your business burn and not be able to do anything about it."

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ALL THAT'S LEFT: Ice hangs off the remains of the Minden Jug City store after last Monday's fire destroyed the entire building, which also housed the company's office, warehouse and a hairstylist's. The owners will rebuild.

Chamber looks for new life with a new Highlands slogan

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is revitalizing itself with an infusion of new members and new ideas.

In a lengthy but detailed presentation to county council on Wednesday, Chamber officials outlined their initiatives over the past year as well as their plans for the next year.

Past successes include:

- choosing a new slogan — "Haliburton Highlands... closer than you think"

- placing a sign with this slogan on the side of the Canar bus which travels from Haliburton to Toronto

- increasing membership by 22 percent or to 240 members out of a possible 700 businesses

- attending various trade and tourism shows

- maintaining and advertising a

1-800 number and fielding 3,369 calls, an increase of 22 percent

- distributing 25,000 Destination Guides and 46,000 Events and Attractions Guides

- working with the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association to promote the Highlands as a winter destination

- contributing \$2,000 to the cost of The Sports Network video on the Minden Dog Sled Derby

- entering into negotiations with renown fisherman Rocky Crawford about hosting a bass tournament in September

- erecting four welcome signs at highway entrances to the county

- setting up a welcoming committee for new businesses

- co-ordinating various members' marketing plans to get better value for money spent

- improving the Chamber's photo library of various attrac-

tions and facilities, and doing a promotional video for distribution

- establishing an accurate and up-to-date inventory of businesses within the county

- conducting an on-going membership drive as well as making sure current members are told of the efforts being made on their behalf.

"It is believed that by cumulatively taking such a leadership role, the Chamber will assist the County increase the confidence of its residents, business owners and potential investors," says the Chamber report. "We believe that such confidence is required to enable the County to move forward in a successful manner."

The Chamber will soon be presenting its budget to council. It is said that for every dollar spent on the Chamber, the Chamber helps promote \$3,000 of revenue in the county.

Men saved from icy death by quick thinking heroes

Continued from page 1

of his eye. At first he drove on, passing Penney as he pulled over, but then something made Mole go back. He did a quick turn around and drove back to the site.

Once out of his truck, he too could here the yells for help.

With another dose of luck for the two men in the water, Penney had a 50-foot, three-quarter-inch thick nylon rope in the back of his truck.

By then a third man, Mole's cousin Tommy Gardner, had also pulled over and joined the rescuers.

While Penney went up the road to a nearby house to call for an ambulance and the fire department, Mole and Gardner stumbled down the steep slope to the lake.

They fell five or six times on the way down, hampered by the deep snow and the ice crust still underneath it from January's storm.

When they got to the lake they could see the two men a good distance out in the water.

The two snowmobilers were in up to their shoulders in water that runs about 20 feet deep at that spot.

Mole tied the rope around himself and told Gardner to hang on to it and get ready to pull him out if he went through the ice.

With a fine sense of wit, Gardner observed Mole would, in that case, be the biggest fish he'd ever landed.

Fortunately for Mole, and unfortunately for Gardner's Big Fish stories, the ice held as Mole crawled out about 35 feet across the lake.

By then Harrison, who can't swim and was in woolen work clothing, had been in the water close to 10 minutes and was beginning to suffer the effects of the cold.

Smith, protected somewhat by

a snowmobile suit and, as he described it, "a bit of winter storage" wasn't as cold.

"Get Harold up first, get Harold he's going under," yelled Smith as Mole reached the two men.

"The other guy kept encouraging Harold," said Mole.

Lying flat on the ice Mole grabbed Harrison. With Gardner and two other men who'd joined him pulling on the rope, they yanked Harrison out of the water.

The men on shore then towed Mole and Harrison, still on their stomachs, across the ice 25 feet to safety. The rescuers struggled to get Harrison on his feet and moving around, but he was more concerned about Smith.

"He said 'Go back for my buddy. Go back for my buddy,'" related Mole.

Once again Mole crawled out across the ice. With Mole being about half his size, Smith told him to throw the rope and just pull.

"He came out of the water and hit the ice at about 20 miles an

hour," said Mole with a chuckle.

Once back on firm ground the rescuers — now numbering five or six men, including Bill Hicks who had come from his nearby home on the lake and others who had stopped on the road — helped the two men up the steep slope to Highway 35.

"Wes was in good shape but Harold really needed help, and kept falling," said Mole.

The fire department arrived and helped carry Harrison the last few yards as the cold and shock set in.

But after a few hours at Minden hospital the two men were released with a clean bill of health. The next morning both men were out on the lake again — this time in a boat — to pull the snowmobile from the depths of the lake.

"He's a pretty tough old bird," said Mrs. Harrison.

And a lucky one.

A sharp eye, a rope, and an act of bravery all combined at the right moment to avert a tragedy.

Out of the frying pan?

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

Immediately after his icy heroics on Lake Boshkung last week, when he pulled two snowmobilers from the frigid water, firefighter Garth Mole was called to the big blaze that destroyed Westside Jug City in Minden the same afternoon.

And one of the men he rescued took advantage of the same fire to warm up after his chilly swim.

Wes Smith, with passenger Harold Harrison, had gone into Boshkung Lake while trying to drive his snowmobile across the ice to a cottage. After being pulled out by Mole and other rescuers, the two men were taken to Minden Hospital.

After a check up they were released unharmed. Seeing the nearby fire, Smith wandered over to try and get his keys and clothing back from the firefighter's truck.

He found Mole there, and some of the other firefighters who had responded to the earlier call to Boshkung Lake.

"I told them I was just trying to get warm," said Smith, with a laugh. "It was one extreme to the other."

But all in a day's work for a volunteer firefighter.

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Deficits, high welfare rolls a bad start to county's budget

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at Wednesday's meeting of county council, with all members present except Dysart et al Reeve Chris Hodgson.

Deficits, deficits

Before they begin planning 1994 budgets, council will have to come up with some money to pay for last year's services.

The deficit for the Social Services Department (welfare) is \$65,000, the deficit for the Roads Department is \$280,000 and the deficit for the county's contribution to the Children's Aid Society is \$16,000.

With the roads department, council decided to take \$225,000 from its roads equipment fund and defer the remaining \$55,000 to the 1994 budget. Some councillors have been opposed to this in the past, saying that the money should only be used for equipment purchases. Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Curry Bishop noted that while subsidies are available for most roads work, paying off the deficit will be entirely funded by local property tax dollars.

The Kawartha-Haliburton CAS spent \$1-million more than it was funded by the province. The province will pick up 80 percent of the deficit and the county's share is 8 percent of the remainder. Caseloads are always fluctuating, but to avoid extra expenditures Monmouth Reeve Keith Tallman said "they're going to have to screen applicants and probably turn some away. They have to stay within their budget but I don't know how they'll do it."

Although final figures are not yet available, the Hyland Crest deficit is more than \$200,000 because of funding changes. Under a new rating schedule, the province in essence pays \$78 per resident per day and yet Hyland Crest was spending \$128 per resident. That figure is

now down to \$94, and the province has agreed to "red letter" the home and pay for the shortfall - this year. The bail out does not include physical plant improvements or costs.

More bad news

Of the county's 13,000 permanent residents, 1,575 of them depend on welfare. The county's caseload is 732, which is up 46 cases over December. Those cases represent 1,575 adults and their dependents. In January, the General Welfare Allowance payments totalled \$546,671.

"It doesn't look like there's an end in sight," said Stanhope Deputy-reeve Eleanor Harrison. Her committee has recommended that another case worker be hired since the present caseload is 244 cases per worker. Council passed the resolution.

Legal fees

Although they blanched at the pricetag, councillors agreed to pay the \$11,400 in legal costs resulting from Phyllis Hiltz-Bontje's perjury charge. The nursing director of Hyland Crest had been charged with perjury by the Minden OPP following her testimony at a competency hearing for a resident. She was testifying as a county employee. Before the case went to trial, however, a judge said there was not enough evidence with which she could be convicted and the charge was dropped. This was not before several court appearances and a preliminary hearing. Other costs to the county include salaries for several nurses who had to be present at the preliminary hearing in Lindsay last summer.

"You've got to protect your employees," said Monmouth Reeve Keith Tallman about council's responsibility to pay the legal bill. Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Bern Berry asked that county staff investigate whether any of the money can be recouped. Perhaps the nurses' association has insurance for such costs.

Fire department

Council unanimously agreed with a Fire Marshall's office recommendation to look at increased co-operation between municipal fire departments. Four officials made a presentation to council - it was later questioned why, in these times of fiscal restraint, four representatives were needed - but the discussions were in camera.

Strategic plan

With fierce competition for dwindling provincial dollars, it is "imperative" that the county have a strategic plan, says Bob Cheetham of the Peterborough office of Economic Development and Trade. "Without a strategic plan it's going to be very difficult to access dollars from the provincial government."

A plan addresses three basic questions: Where is the county today? Where do you want to be? Realistically, how do you get there? All members of the community would be asked to participate. If every municipality held a meeting, then those results could be brought together to set priorities. Traditionally, councils are elected to make those decisions but with the recession, "it's now imperative that planning be done to maximize right decisions.... You need to bring everything into the picture."

The jobsOntario Community Action program could provide 50 percent funding for some of these programs. It brings together 22 previous programs offered through various ministries.

"I have a reluctance to enter into any more plans for 'down the road' because we need assistance now. We can't wait for a strategic plan," said Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Bern Berry. Cheetham said "I don't know in any situation where the money is there, now. But if you can show there's broad community support, you can apply now. You can't come back in six months and say 'this is more important.'"

Berry also commented on stud-

ies which are done and never used. "That's why I'm reluctant to get into another. We're facing double digit tax increase and another one percent isn't palatable."

Cheetham wondered how decisions are made to get taxes down unless priorities are set.

The warden is establishing a task force to work with Community Futures in formulating a strategic plan.

Forest rebates

Last year, the Ministry of Natural Resources wiped out its forest management rebate program without warning any of the property owners who had undertaken special management plans fully expecting a rebate in their property taxes. Deputy-reeve Curry Bishop said it was wrong not to phase out the cuts and urged council to petition the province to re-instate the program. Council agreed, but did not vote in favour of his recommendation that the Fair Tax Commission be asked to give property tax relief to those property owners who took part in the program. Councillors worried that this would mean municipalities would have to provide the rebate.

Thanks, Minden

As a gesture of appreciation, council agreed to donate \$1,000 to Anson, Hindon and Minden for the use of the community centre for meetings. Council chambers were given to the county's social services department so council has been without a home for several months. Some councillors have advocated holding the meeting at various municipalities at no cost to the county, but the Minden representatives have been adamant that county council meets in the county town - Minden.

But Bicroft Reeve Hans Stevens got in one last dig: "For half the price you can have the meetings in Bicroft."



GOODBYE DAVE: Since 1978, a smiling Dave Knott has been making the rounds in Haliburton County for various courier companies. Unfortunately, his most recent employer, UPS, has decided to contract out the route to Muskoka Courier. Knott has been, as they say, "severanced by the company." That means that as of last Wednesday, he was out of a job. Just as many people will miss Knott's cheery presence, he says that what he's going to miss most is the people - "they've been so helpful." Now the Huntsville resident just needs a little help finding a job.

Highlands trails need a lot more snowfall

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Mother Nature has not been kind to local snowmobilers this past winter. She's meted out lots of cold temperatures, but not much snow.

"My brother has had more snow in Hamilton," says Mark Lester, second vice-president of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association. "We got robbed of that one 25-inch snowstorm and that was the snow that we needed to make really good trails."

Lester was responding to a complaint from Lake Kashagawigamog resident Jake Ysseldyk, who told the Echo that "this year the trails here are so bad, they're not fit for a cow to walk on."

Ysseldyk says he's been snowmobiling for several years and that as soon as you leave Haliburton County, the trails are excellent. He wants better grooming.

The HCSA met on Friday night and they discussed local trail problems, Lester said. It's true

that areas to the north and west of the Highlands have more snow; the Bracebridge club was able to send its groomers out on Sunday night while in Haliburton the warm weather was turning trails into slush.

"This time last year Parry Sound couldn't buy snow. This year they've got snow and we couldn't beg for it... There's no question the HCSA has had enormous pressure on us by members."

The HCSA owns six groomers which are operated by a team of volunteers. It takes two and a half days to complete the entire trail network and the relative lack of snow has meant that they're "scalping" the tops of hills and are unable to fill in ruts with sufficient snow.

"The guys have worked really hard at grooming the trails," says Lester, noting that more hours have been put on the groomers this year than last. Although fees from the 2,700 HCSA members are used for trail maintenance, Lester said that the only way they can afford to groom the trails is by relying on the goodwill of volunteers.

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PROPOSAL CALL FOR AUDITORS

Proposals are currently being sought from licenced public accountants, for annual audit services commencing with the December 31, 1994 year end. The firm will be expected to demonstrate an ability to carry out the audit to full professional standards, within the guidelines set out in the proposal call documents, in conformity with Provincial requirements and Society expectations.

Proposal documents can be picked up from the Director Finance and Administration between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sealed envelopes, clearly marked "PROPOSAL FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT", must be received at the Society office no later than 5:00 p.m. March 4, 1994. The office is located at:

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HALIBURTON

457-2751

Hockey player takes ride of a lifetime in helicopter

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Kal Bulyaki had the ride of his life when he flew from Eagle Lake to Toronto in a helicopter.

It's too bad he couldn't sit up and enjoy the view. The 12-year-old boy was strapped to a stretcher the entire way, looking straight up at the roof. All he saw was the CN Tower in passing.

The young Huskie hockey player was being flown to Sick Children's Hospital because it was feared he had broken his neck in a Tri-County hockey game the previous night in Haliburton. In Toronto, a whole new set of x-rays was taken and doctors found that Kal was suffering from neurological shock to his cervical vertebrae. Nothing was broken and he could go home as long as he wore a neck brace for a while and took it easy.

The drama began on Wednesday night, when Kal's Tri-County Atom team hosted Ops at the Dysart arena. Kal had made a break-away and in all the action at the net, Kal hit the goal-post hard, catching his left shoulder and his neck. He was knocked out for a couple of seconds and when he regained consciousness, he grabbed his head in pain.

This was a danger signal to his mother, Christine Jackson, who was a critical care nurse at Sunnybrook's trauma unit before moving to Eagle Lake. She says she immediately asked that no one move him and an ambulance be called. When the ambulance arrived, he was carefully strapped to a stretcher and taken to Haliburton Hospital.

However, the x-ray machine wasn't working so the doctor on

**■ But injured
Kal Bulyaki
wasn't really
able to enjoy it**

call sent Kal and his mother to Peterborough by ambulance. At Peterborough, x-rays were taken but the doctor said everything was fine and Kal was sent home. Kal was able to walk to the door on his own.

They got back to Haliburton at 3 in the morning. Six hours later, the Peterborough hospital phoned to say that since then, a doctor had consulted with a specialist at Sick Kids and the x-rays were showing some abnormalities. There was a lot of concern that he had damaged his two top vertebrae, which could cause paralysis or even death. The Peterborough doctor wanted Kal to come back to Peterborough for more tests.

Jackson said that since the Peterborough doctor was consulting with Sick Kids, it made more sense to take Kal straight to Sick Kids instead. She phoned Haliburton Hospital to ask for a neck brace, but the doctor on call said that because of the potential danger, it would be better if Kal went to Toronto by air ambulance. The ride would be far less bumpy and therefore Kal would be at less risk.

An ambulance then arrived to gingerly take Kal from his home to the base of Sir Sam's Ski Area, where the helicopter landed. His mother joined him in the helicopter, and says she enjoyed the trip much more than Kal did.

"He was strapped to that board for four hours and believe me, he didn't move," she says. With all the discomfort of the trip and the tests, she says that he didn't complain. "He just went through the war and he held up so well. Everyone was so impressed with him."

She was impressed by the professionalism of the ambulance attendants and hospital staff, as well as the caring and compassion of the team officials and players.

"I think it's really nice the way the whole town worked together," she says, extending special thanks to Kim Emmerson, Steve Kirkpatrick, Geraldine Sharp, Ralph and Margaret Hutchinson and all of Kal's teammates. Everyone was very concerned and supportive, and the team sent Kal a card which gave a real boost to his spirits.

However, she was more critical of the fact that the Peterborough doctor sent Kal home before deciding to consult with a specialist. If the damage had been more severe, Kal could have seriously injured himself. Kal should have been kept at the hospital if the x-rays warranted consultation with Sick Kids, she says. As well, "it's a problem not having an x-ray machine that works (at Haliburton Hospital)."

Kal is pretty stoic about the whole adventure. He stayed at home until Tuesday and he plans to attend Wednesday's practice with his team.

"It really wasn't much of anything," he says of the helicopter ride. Asked how he could be so brave, he says that "hospitals don't bug me. I've never had a bad experience with the hospital."



NOW THAT'S EMERGENCY SERVICE: A Haliburton ambulance crew was on hand to take 12-year-old Kal Bulyaki from his home in Eagle Lake to the former Sir Sam's airstrip, where an emergency helicopter was waiting to take the young hockey player to Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Luckily, the injuries to Kal's neck were not as bad as first feared and he expects to be back in school today.

MP's conscience says no to euthanasia

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

If tomorrow there was a free vote on doctor-assisted suicide in the House of Commons, MP John O'Reilly says he'd vote against it.

"We're crossing over a moral bridge that I'm not ready to go over," the MP for Victoria-Haliburton told the Echo after Prime Minister Jean Chrétien agreed there would be a "vote of conscience" on the issue. "My own personal opinion is when is a life not worth living? Where does it end? Where is the line? I have trouble with the morality of it."

But O'Reilly says it will take a long time for the issue to come to a vote, and until then, he'll be open to the comments of his constituents. "It's an issue that wasn't in the election so I think it's incumbent upon me to survey the riding as much as I can."

The national debate began in earnest with the death of Sue Rodriguez, a British Columbia

woman who had ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. She died last week after an unidentified doctor helped her fulfill her wish of dying when she chose, rather than when the disease left her fully debilitated. MP Svend Robinson was with her at the time and he plans to introduce a Private Member's Bill which would legalize doctor-assisted suicide.

However, opponents to such a bill say that it opens a Pandora's Box of possibilities. What would be the criteria? Would people with Alzheimer's be euthanized to reduce healthcare costs? Would it include people who are mentally ill?

For O'Reilly, his main struggle is with who makes the decisions about the value of life and how that can be encompassed by a law. He has many acquaintances who are physically disabled or mentally retarded. They have lived a "good and fruitful" life and he's afraid that legalizing euthanasia won't simply affect

people with terminal illnesses who want to die. "If a child is born mentally retarded, do you ask is this life worth living?"

Some people have argued that if Canada has legalized abortions, why should terminally ill people not be allowed help in committing suicide? But O'Reilly says "abortion deals with one gender and one situation. Euthanasia deals with all genders, all ages, all religions, all people."

Asked whether he would have told Ms. Rodriguez that she could not choose when to end her life, O'Reilly says "I was never placed in that situation and I don't expect to be. What her decision was would have no bearing on my ethics... Whatever she did is done and I can't do anything about it. I have a great deal of sympathy (for her) but certainly I could never make that decision, or I assume I couldn't."

O'Reilly expects to be mailing out a survey to constituents. This survey would include a question about doctor-assisted suicide

THANK YOU MINDEN

The Westside Jug City Family would like to sincerely thank (and where do we begin?) all the Firefighters of Minden, Dysart and Stanhope Fire Departments for such a great job and our wonderful friends/customers for all their help, sincere concern, and words of encouragement.

We thank God no one was injured, and if the good Lord willing, we will be commencing to rebuild as soon as possible.

There are many individuals who deserve to be mentioned, from the Bell guys, to the girls who made sandwiches for the firefighters, to our own family members, but unfortunately, if we started to list all of them we should surely miss someone. But you know who you are and our deepest gratitude goes to you.

Our family would like to thank our customers for all their support over the last eight years. Your patronage and loyalty have given us the strength to carry on.

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ECHO Comment

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The Haliburton County Echo is an independent newspaper serving Haliburton County for more than 109 years. It was established in 1882 at The Minden Echo and Haliburton Recorder and amalgamated with The Minden Recorder in 1977 to become The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Recorder. In 1991 the name was shortened to The Haliburton County Echo, or simply The Echo.

The Haliburton County Echo is published in Haliburton, Ontario by Algonquin Graphics Limited, Box 360, K0M 1S0. Telephone (705) 457-1037. Fax (705) 457-3275.

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EDITORIAL

The cuts begin

County council's decision to close its planning and waste management department can be greeted with mixed emotions. It is never easy to watch people lose their jobs. But it's not any easier to watch a budget climb by 30 percent, knowing that by the time the numbers are crunched, people will see an increase on their tax bills. Municipal politicians at least are very much aware that they, like many of the property taxpayers, are treading water. Nobody's going anywhere; they're just trying to keep their head above the surface. Budget cuts are necessary, and cuts are always painful.

Proper planning is essential if this county is going to move forward. There have to be development rules and there has to be local input into what those rules are. This decision, however, should just give council some breathing space. Unfortunately, planning has become bogged down by personality differences and a lack of political will and co-operation. Those differences have to be resolved, and perhaps after November's municipal elections, the new (?) councillors will arrive at the table with fresh ideas and the energy needed to forge ahead.

As well, the next time county council decides to tackle its waste management problems, it would be wise to keep the provincial government out of it. In order to access provincial funding, the county had signed up for a waste management master plan. This became an albatross around council's neck. The provincial government's rules were simply too unwieldy and expensive. There was too much emphasis on bureaucracy and technology, and not enough on finding local solutions to local problems. Because of the red tape, committee members became frustrated, and often angry. Energy was diffused, ideas wilted. A county-wide waste management strategy is necessary, but the process does not have to be as complicated (as the chairman of the former committee is telling Queen's Park this week.)

But taxpayers should take heed to council's warning that last week's budget cut was only the first. Closing the departments did not directly affect many people; the next cuts will. As a society in general, we have a responsibility to acknowledge that such cuts cannot be avoided.

Preventing tax increases is not simply a matter of not increasing spending. The spending we're doing now can no longer be afforded. Just look at the municipal services and ask yourself if they are efficient and cost-effective: we have snowplows going down roads with only one or two houses; we have people who chose to live on a cottage road and yet want their children bussed to school; we have new developments spread along a road rather than grouped in clusters. Many people choose to live outside of towns and villages. That is their right. But you cannot make such choices and then demand a high level of service — unless you're willing to pay for it.

We are coming to a huge shift in how we provide services and pay for them. Instead of just telling your councillor to keep taxes down, give them a few concrete ideas of how this is possible. What would you be willing to give up?

Glory days

On Friday, the sun was shining, the snow was melting and all was right with the world. After weeks of hibernation, people ventured outside, no longer rushing past people in their search for shelter, but taking the time to stop and chat. On the steps of the post office, it wasn't only the mail that contained a lot of news. As people stopped to say hello, complaints were aired, opinions expressed, salutations exchanged. Our thanks to the federal government for ensuring that our rural post offices will not be closed by urban decision makers at Canada Post. Isn't spring wonderful? **M.P.**



Photo by Len Pizzey

NDP stance on Jr.K is "infuriating"

To the Editor

from our Readers

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to The Honourable David Cooke, Minister of Education, Mowat Block, 900 Bay St., Queens Park, Toronto. M7A 1L2.

Dear Mr. Cooke:

The recent controversy regarding the implementation of junior kindergarten has prompted us to write this letter to add our voices to the growing opposition to the plan, as it would exist, in our area.

In order to counter any preconceptions that our opinions about junior kindergarten may create, we want to say that in general, we support the concepts behind social programs. We supported the NDP in the last election (and all previous ones) and haven't, overall, been displeased with your efforts as a party. We are not even opposed to some of our taxes being used to support the junior kindergarten program, if it seemed to have the best interests of the children in mind, and was workable in this area. We are not bus drivers so can not be accused of lobbying in defence of our sanity! We should also stress that we are not fundamentally opposed to the idea of junior kindergarten, not even fundamentally opposed to the idea of junior kindergarten as a kind of sham, universal day care scheme. If a child could be walked or safely driven by parents to a junior kindergarten, which he or she attended for half a day or so, close to home, then we would be all for it. In densely populated urban areas this idea is likely to work well, and would be one of the advantages of living in such a setting.

Unfortunately, this utopian kindergarten is not what we will be faced with here in Haliburton County. Our population is scattered and bus rides for school children are long. The children attending junior kindergarten would have to ride on regularly scheduled school buses and stay at school an entire day. Very few live close enough to the schools to walk there. Our toddlers will be expected to fend for themselves, for up to an hour each way, in the company of potentially much older children (young adults really), on a bus with inadequate supervision and substandard safety conditions.

The blind obstinacy of your NDP party policy makers, in their refusal to understand the regional differences and their effect on the implementation of the policy is absolutely infuriating. Who are these people? Are any of them parents? Are they seriously suggesting that anyone should place a

three and a half year old child on a bus at 8 o'clock in the morning with other children of up to 18 years of age, and expect that child to manage on his own until 4:30 p.m.? Are they seriously suggesting that a bus driver should be required to supervise a large group of mischievous, unrestrained preschoolers, and drive the bus too?

We question whether the proponents of this plan are parents for the simple reason that anyone who ever has been a parent understands that three and four year old children have very short attention spans. An order to sit still on a school bus seat, no matter how well it is initially understood and complied with, does not necessarily apply five minutes or even two minutes from the time it was given. Exactly how are the bus drivers expected to enforce orders when they are busy driving? The image of toddlers racing around the bus, even conceivably trying to climb up into the drivers' seat or making a grab for knobs on the dashboard, hanging out the windows or trying to go down the steps ... well, it's all too hair raising to think about. How, specifically, are these problems going to be addressed? This situation would clearly compromise everyone's safety. The answer, we think, is that they can't be addressed. Safety. The answer, we think, is that they can't be addressed. Safe busing for children of this age can't be achieved without almost one to one adult supervision and adequate restraint devices. The plan, as it stands, is unworkable.

As parents, we can be judged negligent for failing to provide adequate, safe restraint for our child when we venture out in a car. Yet, as a direct result of the NDP provincial policy, we are expected to pop our son on a bus that has no such safety provisions, for up to two hours, every day. This strikes us as hypocritical. Of course, the safe-

ty issue concerns all children of all ages. Perhaps the money slated for the enforcement of junior kindergarten would be better spent upgrading safety standards (i.e. installing seat belts, cushioning seat backs) for the older students who are already being bused to school.

Why is the NDP government not aiming its considerable resources at these issues, with the goal of helping to provide rural areas with creative solutions, if you really have our preschoolers' best interests at heart? I'm sure that there are as many sophisticated solutions as there are regional differences. The concepts of subsidized car pooling and/or decentralized organization of junior kindergarten classrooms come immediately to mind. It seems to us it would make more sense to move one teacher around, in a suitably equipped car, of course, with seat belts (maybe even an air bag!) than to expose large numbers of children of all ages to blatantly dangerous busing conditions, and subject toddlers to exhausting 8-1/2 hour days. Surely, your party, with all its creative and organizational abilities and expertise, can come up with even better ideas! The bland, self-righteous insistence that local governments must solve issues which the policy developers themselves have shown no inclination or ability to solve is simply mulish.

Until your government grasps the fact that in an area the size of Ontario, regional idiosyncrasies make uniform application of policy unreasonable, and in this case, even dangerous, we remain, concerned parents, and embarrassed and uncomfortable NDP supporters.

Yours sincerely,
Kerry Riley and Mike McReynolds,
Essonville.

Warden should lead promotion for hospital donations

To the Editor:

Re: Jan. 25th Echo: How Much Would You Pay (for Healthcare Services)?

If past experience is any indicator the answer is "Quite a bit."

Look how overwhelming the response was in previous appeals for funds to improve our hospital. And the desire is still there in spite of the waffling on the part of the provincial governments.

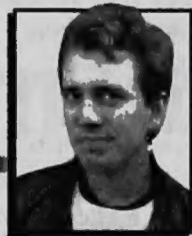
I agree with Reeve Chris Hodgson's belief that the project is very "do-able", but not with his proposal of a \$10 levy every year for the next 10 or 20 years. Special levies all too often end up being tacked on to the tax bill after the need for the levy

expires. Put the question to the people as to how the money should be raised. One suggestion which immediately comes to my mind would be to have the County Warden and the Reeves of the townships of Haliburton to appeal to everyone who loves the Highlands to make "The Hospital Fund" the recipient of their largest charitable donation. The donations could be kept before the people through newspaper ads, notices included with the tax bills, signs along the roadways throughout the highlands, etc., etc.

Come on, you Highlanders! Let's get it done before we get the run-around all over again.

Art Wall,
Haliburton.

Amortizi-fication



CITY SLICKER
DAVID CARROLL

PINE POINT, KENNISIS LAKE: I don't like shopping. Never have. It's hereditary, I think: Dad hated the malls. Whenever he needed a shirt or a tie, he'd hand Mom his wallet and the keys to the car. I'm just as bad: I don't care what it costs, so long as I don't have to set foot in a store. I'm the guy who pays list price for speakers, anything, just to avoid shopping around. I get taken all the time, but I don't care. Time is more precious to me than a deal.

So you can imagine what a swell time I'm having, going out every evening to look for a house. Yup, you heard right: a real live house. A three-bedroom, two-bathroom, semi-detached house. With a new roof and furnace, and just maybe, a yard.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking I'm too young to buy a house. On that point we agree: I am far too young to buy a house. Susanne, alas, sees things differently. She says it's high time we got into the market. "Twenty-six and twenty-seven," she reflects. "Hmmm. My parents had a house and three kids by our age."

It is impossible to argue with such infuriating logic. Not that I haven't tried. Oh, I've fought it from the start, back when Susanne strode into that fateful bank, and asked, on a whim, about pre-approved mortgages. Not surprisingly, we qualified. For a staggering amount. The bank manager grinned. Said, "Get out there and buy!"

So now we have a real estate agent, who drives us around Toronto in his Sunbird. He's into his fifties, wears a hearing aid and galoshes, and speaks somewhat loudly through a thick British accent. We stroll through the houses and he points out the flaws. "I wouldn't buy this myself," he shouts, the home-owner palming ten feet away. "See that floorboard?" The joists are all rot. Let's see if the basement is any better." Susanne and I follow him meekly down the stairs, where he invariably points out the deteriorating pipes. "No, no, no. This is no good at all. That bulge in the floor means water damage."

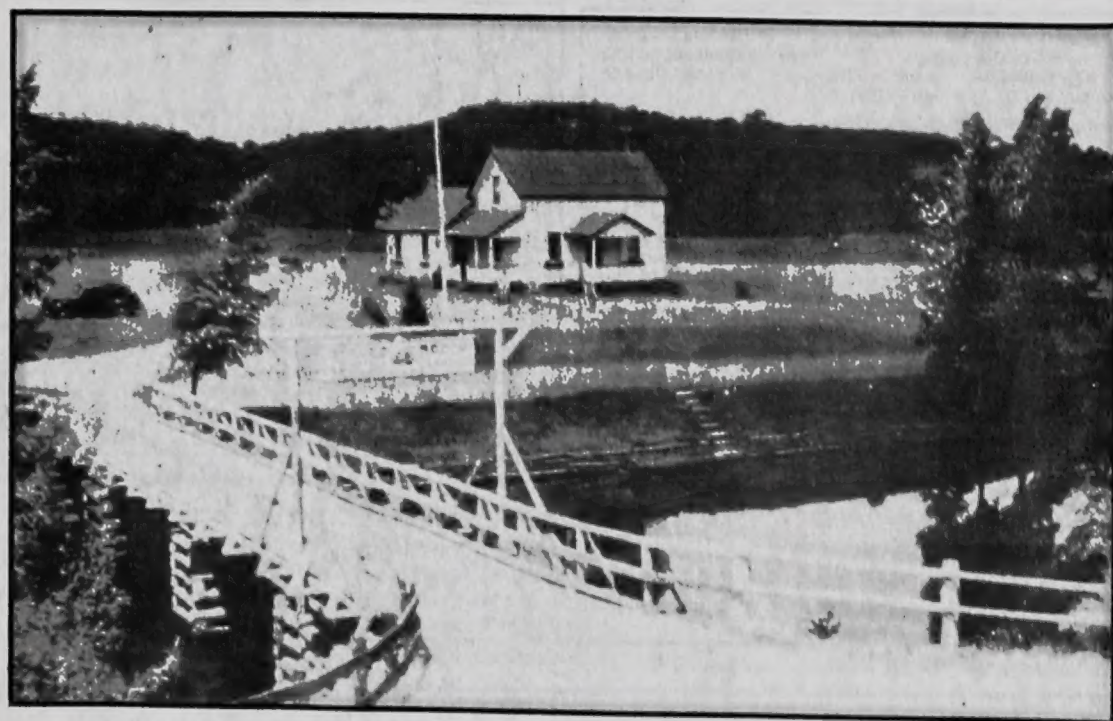
He taps the walls, pulls up the rugs, sniffs for termites, then suggests that we leave. Outside, his grey eyes deliver the verdict. "That house isn't on my agenda," he says.

It's great. As though we were his son and daughter. As though our trust were more important than a deal. Which is fine by me, for in spite of the depressed market, and the ridiculous interest rates, and the economic gurus admonishing me to buy, I am still reluctant to make the big leap. I belong, after all, to the "X Generation," that cynical fraternity that doubts all good providence. Xers take it for granted that we'll lose all our jobs, contract cancer from the sunshine, and wind up without a pension. But we're not bitter. No siree. For we also know that there will be a revolt, and what the heck, we might even take part. Unless, that is, we buy a house. In which case we'll be lined up against the wall with the rest.

But what's this? The hint of a smile on your chapsticked lips? The shaking of heads at the Kozy Korner Grill? Ah yes, I admit it, you've seen through me again. You've rejected my rhetoric and fingered my fear. My one true fear. My most horrible fear. That when I settle into a house of my own, I'll stop reading books and start buying hand tools instead. Or I'll stop writing columns about sunsets and herb tea and start hanging out at Canadian Tire. And, horror of horrors - this is the worst - I'm terrified that kids will appear. Cause when that happens, it'll all be over and I'll start erecting swing-sets and tree-forts and decks. And my hair will fall out and I'll start watching Maude, and I'll never eat out, and I'll take to the Globe.

Susanne doesn't buy any of this, of course. She's too sensible to be scared of getting old. Already she's configured an IBM program that calculates payments based on a twenty-year amortization. She has further learned that we should pay bi-week, thus shaving three years off the term. She's had us pre-approved at three separate banks, and has engaged the services of a reputable lawyer. Amazing, you say? I wouldn't really know. I've been hiding my face in this plastic bag.

But one day soon I'll have to emerge: when our dear agent says, "Smell-this basement is dry." I'm dreading the day, but I know it will come, with a new roof and furnace, and just maybe, a yard. When that happens, I'm not sure what I'll do: sign my name, I suppose. Or worse: grow old.

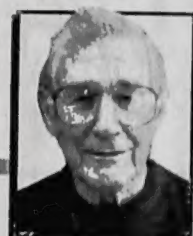


Pic of the Past

Think summer! Think golf! If the winter is beginning to get you down, why not turn your thoughts to a warmer season? Dave Stevens of the

Beaver Brook Golf Course shares this picture with us, noting "the cold weather is getting to me." His family has owned this land on the shores of the Gull River in Minden since 1916. His parents, Andy and Ada, started the golf course in 1939 and this photo was taken in 1950. How many shovelling days are there left till golf season?

Hard of hearing, Four Eyes?



OFF THE CUFF
GEORGE LACY

DESPITE ALL THE AMAZING new technology, some of the inventions that have been with us for a long time, and are usually taken for granted, are extremely important to us. Even one that is right before our eyes is seldom given a second thought. And yet, eyeglasses or plastic lenses are so essential to vast numbers of us that life without them would be very difficult indeed. They have always been high on my list of inventions which are vital to us humans (I was going to say mankind, but you know the problem that raises). The use of spectacles dates back to the 13th century, and magnifying glasses were known in very ancient times.

I remember when I first got glasses. At school, the blackboard had got increasingly fuzzy, and a trip to the optometrist became necessary. Not only did the blackboard clear up but the whole world brightened; colours were more brilliant and I was able to see details that had previously escaped me. They also gave me my first lesson in humility. "What will people say," I moaned to my

mother? "My friends will all laugh at me." You know what! Nobody said anything. They didn't care two hoots, because my importance to them hardly measured up to the expectations of my ego.

Glasses help us with one of our two most important senses. Fortunately, modern technology can also help us with the other one - our ability to hear. Blindness and deafness in any degree are not funny, and yet misinterpretation of what we hear often gives us a chuckle.

You have seen the ads in the papers, "Send three and fourpence, we're going to a dance." That's what the soldier at headquarters heard. What the soldier at the front actually said was, "Send reinforcements, we're going to advance." I forget what the ad was trying to sell but it would be appropriate for a hearing aid. When our hearing begins to falter, one of our first complaints is that people don't articulate anymore, they mumble. Not a completely invalid observation, but not the whole story! Sometimes a hearing aid doesn't solve the problem completely. A friend of mine, started wearing one and I commented, "I see that you got yourself a hearing aid."

"Yes, I just got it last week."

"What kind is it, Joe?"

He looked at his watch, and replied, "Ten minutes past three."

When your hearing starts to go, not only do people seem to be mumbling, they also start acting like a bunch of conspirators and say everything in

Please turn to page 16

Lessons for the young

To the Editor:

It never ceases to amaze me how the incredibly simple things in life can grasp and hold a child's attention, especially in this fast paced, high tech world in which we live.

I am a 25 year old, proud, single father of three beautiful, intelligent children. Two girls and a boy. We, as a family like to take full advantage of each and every opportunity to enjoy our wild and wondrous natural resources. A simple hike through the forest in autumn, or at any time of the year for that matter can be a fun, inexpensive learning experience for both children and parents alike. The sight of a fleeing snowshoe hare as it makes an escape for dense cover, the thundering flush of a startled grouse as it rises in a flurry and quickly vanishes into thin air, or even the incessant chatter of a treed red squirrel can leave a positive, lasting impression in a child's imagination. The quality time alone that such an outing can afford is worth so much more than any toy, and will instill in ones children the proper respect for their environment.

My eldest daughter, Angela (who by the way is only seven) can already discern many of the animal tracks that we have encountered. She is also quite accurate in describing their line of travel! On the other hand, my daughter Kim and son Rick Jr. have acquired a keen eye for odd shaped sticks

and pretty rocks!

The great out of doors has much to offer everyone. Why not take the kids along for a pleasant day with mother nature? You'd be surprised at what they can learn in a day about their surroundings, and even more so at what they can teach us!

**Rick Young,
Wilberforce.**

Butcher's block is cleanest

To the Editor:

This has been a difficult winter in Haliburton. The extreme cold and inclement weather have made it a challenge for area merchants to maintain their walkways. I would like to express my appreciation for the extra effort shown by Mr. Don Stephenson at The Butcher Block and Deli. I recognize other merchants may have attempted to rise to the challenge, but Mr. Stephenson's efforts appear unmatched on the route I walk through twice each day.

Thank you Butcher Block for making it easier to be a pedestrian!

**Barry Stromberg,
Haliburton**

'Women's' work is worth billions

To the Editor:

This is one more response to Ms. Carolyn Bishop's out-of-focus viewpoint on stay-at-home moms and full-time homemakers (see Echo, Jan. 25, 1994), reader's letters).

First of all, thank you, Virginia Muenzel - you expressed exactly what I had wanted to say, you once again have cleared the air!

At the risk of being repetitive, however, I still like to add a few points because this had been a very great concern of mine for a long time: the value depreciation of the fine art of homemaking, and the satisfaction one finds in knowing that some small personal sacrifice, namely being there for others, will in the long run reap joy, love, self-respect, and a certain kind of pride in having done a job that ensures the physical and emotional well-being of those we love.

The Sunday Star on Mother's Day printed a front page feature with the headline "Women's Unpaid Work Worth Billions". Academics and government statisticians had studied it closely and found that it takes up to 55 hours a week to do housework, including caring for the family which is often taken for granted, and I believe it needs much upgrading in its status.

Some years ago a management consulting firm established that good homemaking equals middle-level supervisory jobs, senior specialists or non-supervisory jobs such as therapists or social workers, and even put a salary figure to it between \$26,000 and \$32,000 a year. To quote from this

report: "The work of caring for a family and household is complex and highly skilled. It is a job of policy setting and management, decision making and high level responsibility. It consists of childbearing, childcare, care of the elderly, care of the sick, cleaning, cooking, clothing care, laundry, gardening, account keeping, management of family members, transportation and shopping, and many other miscellaneous activities."

I thought this might be an interesting point to make: if the work was recognized as being difficult and valuable men might choose to stay home and let their wife, if she so desired, do the 9 to 5 routine on the job market - which of course is already happening, be it by choice or by force.

We do indeed need upgrading the status of homemaking so that those who are now forced by circumstances of joblessness and sudden job losses to stay at home, will feel a sense of dignity in contributing a very important part to society by bringing up good kids. By giving our kids continual care and supervision we not only nurture the workforce of the future but also build nurturing communities. And when the "nest empties" our community has many places where our talents are needed to continue our work of caring.

The life we share with our spouses, partners and children in this smallest body of community - the family - is the testing ground for cultivating the kind of community from which all will benefit.

**Gisele Probst,
Brampton, Ont.**

The seeds of spring



NORTHERN LIGHTS
VIRGINIA MUENZEL

JUST AS WE WERE all in doubt of ever getting through this interminable frigid spell, up came a warm, southern breeze, out came a spring feeling sun, and up went the temperature. Why, a person could even take a deep breath without ice crystals searing their lungs. Surely, it must be over. Oh, we won't see spring for awhile. But, at least the rest of the winter should be bearable. We can ski or skate or walk without our cheeks and nose and toes freezing.

It has surely been a long hard winter. I suppose we will get another dump of snow or two. We'll probably have to suffer through another ice storm as well. At least we've had a lot of sun. And we don't have anywhere near the snow they have in many places.

But when I've driven down 118 lately, where the Gull River and Maple Lake connect, our poor

swan looks more like sculptured ice with her head buried under her wing. She could be frozen stiff for all we know. I don't know how she stands the cold.

Then last week came along. Wasn't it a beauty? I don't know about you, but a balmy winter day that hints of Spring to come makes me a little fuzzy-headed and dreamy. By the time the Solstice arrives, I'll be ready to celebrate with a raging bonfire surrounded by a large group of friends who have just consumed one of those famous pot luck suppers. By the time April rolls around, I'll have an advanced case of Spring fever. I'll be shovelling snow off of my garden beds, or watching for the first flock of red-winged blackbirds. With Up to three feet of ice on the lakes, either the water fowl will be late, or they will have to learn to skate.

It may take awhile this year, but spring will come with all its promise of warmth and growth and beauty. I've sent in my seed order. I've planned my new flower beds. There's only one more week of February. Three more Sundays after that is the Solstice. The time of hope, rebirth, and spring cleaning. Soon the ice will melt, the water will flow, and the geese will come back. It's coming. Hallelujah!

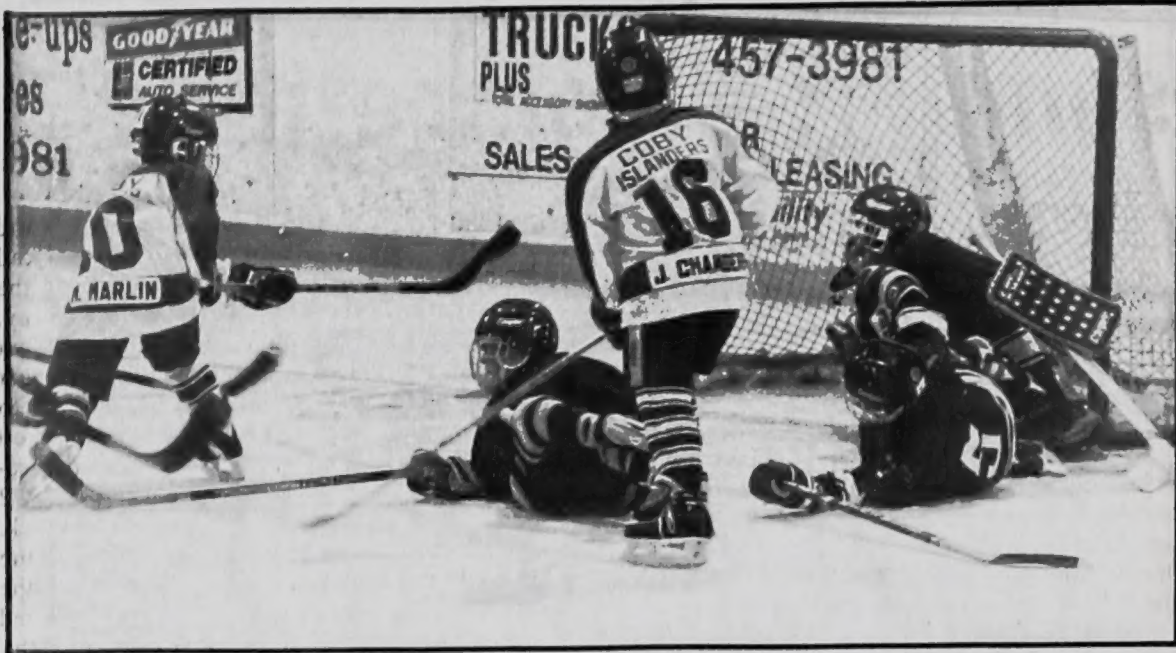
Boonieville

by
**Charlie
Teljeur**



ECHO Sports

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Sunshine draws teams to Novice B tournament

The Novice "B"s hosted the annual Novice "B" tournament on the nicest winter day of the year.

The Huskies squared off against Ops for their first game. The two teams traded scoring opportunities but only the Huskies were able to deposit one in the net, this goal being scored by Cory Sisson and assisted by

Ryan Goldenberg and Matthew Brown. In the second period it was all OPS as they fired four goals to take a 4-1 lead. Ops scored again less than two minutes into the third, but the Huskies scored just over a minute later with Cory Sisson getting his second of the game from Ryan Goldenberg to narrow the gap to 5-2. Ops scored one more late in the game to round out the scoring at 6-2 for Ops. Cory Sisson earned the MVP award for the Huskies.

game like they started the first two by scoring first. Adam Tomlinson lit up the red light for Haliburton with Ryan Goldenberg and Matthew Brown assisting. Bracebridge scored just under two minutes later tying the game. Cory Sisson put Haliburton out in front again 2-1. Setting up Cory was Matthew Brown and Adam Tomlinson. Bracebridge came storming back and fired three more goals as the first period ended with a 4-2 Bracebridge lead.

Novices handily win playoff

The OMHA Novice Huskies skated to a predictable 9-2 win against a hopelessly out-classed Beaverton team on Sunday to take their first play off series three straight.

It was an unfortunate situation for Beaverton at all OMHA levels this year. They are the only other "DD" playing in the Haliburton loop, and as such, were forced to take on all Husky teams whether competitive or not. Definitely on the down side for the Blades.

The Novice Huskies will find the road to the zone final a little less bumpy this year-figuratively speaking only. Haliburton sits out the next round while they

wait for an opponent to come forward from the South-east. It appears no one from that conference is interested in facing the Huskies in a semi-final match-up and have decided instead, to fight it out amongst themselves for the right to advance to the final. Whether this action is prudent or just plain selfish, it leaves the Huskies idle in playoff action for a month. Time to go hunting for some competition?

The Huskies head to a Peterborough tournament in two weeks as defending champs and then on to the "Timmy Tyke" extravaganza the following week-

Please turn to page 9



Weather perfect for 400 riders in Haliburton Forest Poker Run

Over 400 snowmobilers participated in this year's Haliburton Forest Poker Run making it once again one of the largest snowmobiling events in the province.

Although rain was in the forecast, Saturday turned out to be perfect for the event. Enjoying the unseasonably warm temperatures, every participant made a full day's event out of the day's program. Checkpoints were once again set up at shelter cabins along the trails and manned by the Kennis Lake business community. Those business - Kennis Lake Lodge, Backwoods marina, Windermere Cottage Resort, Kennis Lake Marina and Haliburton Forest - sponsored and supported the event. Additional assistance in

the form of donated prizes was received from Howard Repath Enterprises, Roberts Austin Fuels and The Cookhouse. Bombardier was the corporate sponsor of the event.

Out on the trails the partici-

Please turn to page 10

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY STATISTICS

Kawartha League, FINAL STANDINGS

DIVISION	TEAM	GAMES	W	L	T	GF	GA	POINTS
CENTRAL	Kenner	17	14	0	3	116	55	29
CENTRAL	Crestwood	17	10	5	2	83	57	22
CENTRAL	St. Peter's	17	9	6	2	81	56	20
CENTRAL	Adam Scott	17	1	15	1	40	102	3
EAST	T.A.S.S.	17	11	4	2	81	66	24
EAST	Lakefield	17	9	7	1	89	59	19
EAST	Campbellford	16	5	10	1	61	89	11
EAST	Norwood	18	3	13	0	35	104	6
WEST	Fenelon Falls	17	12	3	2	79	35	26
WEST	HALIBURTON	17	11	5	1	94	55	23
WEST	I.E. Weldon	17	5	7	5	56	89	17
WEST	Lindsay C.V.I.	17	2	15	0	42	117	4

SCORING - FINAL STANDINGS

Haliburton's Jonathon Bishop finished seventh in the league scoring race, with 11 goals and 17 assists for 28 points. Mark Stamp earned 25 points on 12 goals and 13 assists.

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22nd



23rd

ONTARIO HYDRO NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

In a continuing effort to cut costs, the Minden office of Ontario Hydro will no longer accept cash payments effective, **March 1, 1994.**

All banks and trust companies will accept cash. Payment by cheque can be mailed in the self-addressed return envelope or placed in a drop box at the Minden office.

Customers preferring automatic deductions from their bank account can make these arrangements by calling Customer Accounts at (705) 286-2031.

Other services previously provided by the Minden office are still available.

If you wish further information please contact the above number.



THE MINDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

would like to express their sincere appreciation to the DYSART FIRE DEPARTMENT and STANHOPE FIRE DEPARTMENT the Minden O.P.P. and the Haliburton County Ambulance Service for their recent co-operation and assistance at the structural fire on February 14, 1994.

Thanks also to the ladies from Carnarvon and Minden for thinking of us and taking the time to bring us something to eat.

A special thank you to the area businesses for your help:

Rudy's Restaurant

Mr. D's Donuts

Dollo's IGA

Rockcliffe Snack Bar

Kountry Double D Catering

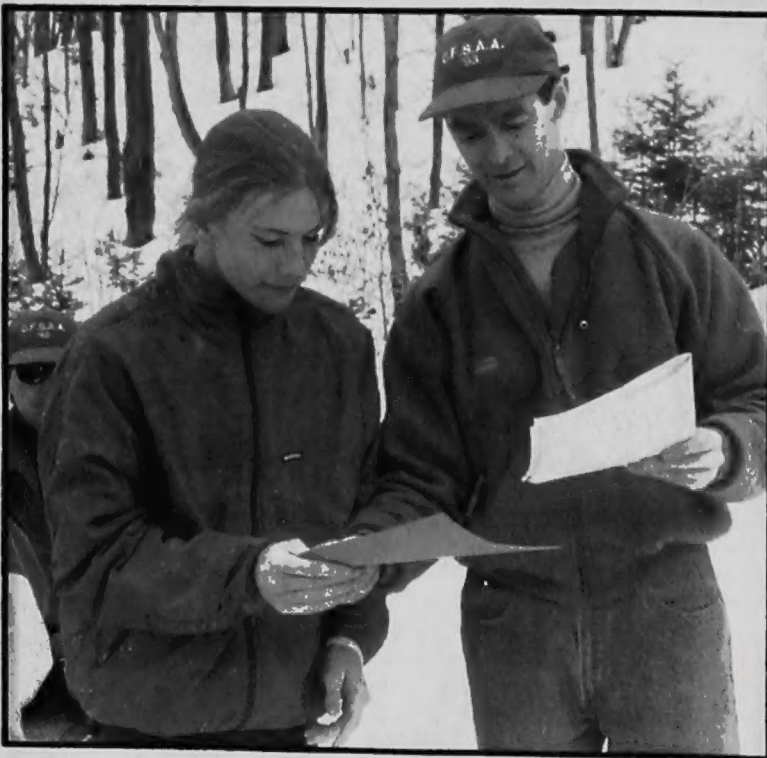
To the special individuals who worked behind the scenes, too many to mention, thank you!!

To the Moores thank you for letting us use your home. Your support is really appreciated.

**BILL HOGG, Fire Chief
and the
MINDEN FIRE FIGHTERS**

A super day for a Loppet...

Saturday's warm weather added an extra measure of enjoyment for the cross country ski enthusiasts who participated in the Nordic Trails Loppett. Top finisher in the 15 km. event was Iain MacLean of Port Perry, shown receiving his prize from Nordic Trails' Jim Andrews. First among males 30-45 was Henrik Damsback of Omeme. First woman 30-45 was Kit Pizze. Bob Heyes was the first male over 45 to finish. Jennifer Paton was the first woman between 18 and 30 to finish. Jackrabbit finishers were John Heffer and Tori Browne, 3.5 km; Conrad Flatman, Reuben Maughan, Kyle Burley, Emily Schwartzentruber, Laura Stouffer, 2 km distance.



Frankford gives PeeWees some "real competition"

"It's about time you had some real competition."

This comment was made by a fan to several Frankford PeeWee hockey players following the first game in the best 3 out of 5 series with Haliburton in the OMHA "DD" playoffs. It seems that Frankford, after having a relatively easy time of it during the season, have come up against a team that is highly competitive with them. Unfortunately for the Haliburton OMHA PeeWee Huskies, as competitive as they are and as close as the first 2 games in the series have been, they trail Frankford by 2 games to none.

In the first game of the series in Frankford on Friday, February 18 the Huskies were nervous as they took to the ice. It was their first playoff game in almost 4 weeks. Their first game in the series since they had eliminated Beaverton 3 games straight in the first round of the playoffs. Frankford took full advantage. Icing the best 5 man contingent that the Huskies have faced this year their top player Scott Lockwood scored in the first minute of the game. This settled the Huskies down and on the power play Steve St. Cyr evened it up with an assist from Jason Henry. Frankford came back quickly to restore their one goal lead. Before the period ended, on another power play, Henry tied it with help from Darol Sisson and Matt Billings. In the second period the play was intense. Late in the period Sisson passed to St. Cyr who gave the Huskies the lead with his second goal of the game. With 37 sec-

onds left in the period and Haliburton a man short Frankford pulled out all the stops and knotted the score once again. Frankford's big 5 came out flying in the third period and quickly scored. Before the Huskies recovered they scored again. Mike Morissette brought the Huskies to within one when he converted a perfect pass from Matt Burk with a quick high shot. Haliburton pressed but could not score again as Frankford scored 2 more to defeat Haliburton 7 to 4.

The second game was played in Haliburton on Sunday, February 20. It was both faster and harder hitting than the first game. The play in the first period was excellent hockey on both sides from the goal on out. The Huskies held Frankford's big 5 in check until Frankford made the most of a small break. In the second Frankford went up by 2. The Huskies were then kept busy as they successfully killed a 5 minute major penalty. But Lockwood put Frankford ahead by 3 with 5 minutes to go in the period. The Haliburton Huskies then showed their true heart. They pressed until Steve St. Cyr scored with 37 seconds (again) left in the second period with

assists from Jason Henry and Matt Burk. Frankford looked tired in the third period and the Huskies carried the play. Haliburton did everything but put the puck in the net. The number of near misses was too high to count. Finally they shocked Frankford with 2 goals in 10 seconds to tie the game with only 2 minutes remaining on the clock. The pressure mounted and the play intensified. Then came the heartbreaker as Frankford scored with only 39 seconds in the game. "Real Competition" it was but still a second loss for Haliburton. Goalie Greg Schell was a standout in this game with lots of help from his defensive corps of Matt Billings, Devon Dart, Andrew Burtch and Matt Reid. Up front winger Greg Luck turned in his best performance of the season. In the wings and giving their all whenever called upon were Greg Forgrave, Ryan O'Neill, Chris Moynes and Allar Pugh. Shane Parks did not dress for the 2 games due to an elbow injury.

Game 3 goes Friday, February 25 in Frankford. Game 4, if necessary, is back in Haliburton on Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 p.m. and Game 5, if necessary, is the following Friday in Frankford.

Novices do well in playoffs

Continued from page 8

end. More about that later.

For the record: Jeff Wilson recorded an easy four; Chris Petrow had the hat-trick; Cooper and Gerry one goal each; with defenseman Alex Judge assisting on three, or was it four- hard to tell from a less than attentive offi-

ciating gear. I suppose they could be excused after "overworking" themselves in a rough and tumble Pee-Wee contest that preceded the Novice Game. I'm sure they gave official scorer Bill Hartin writer's cramp trying to keep up with the penalty calls.



Bruce Griffith, left, and B.J. Cummings skate uphill

HALIBURTON HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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HOME & Cottage SHOW

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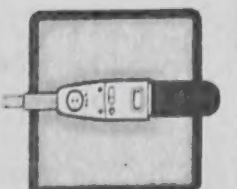
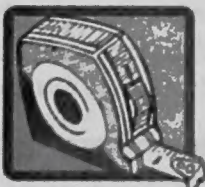
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APRIL IS HOME IMPROVEMENT MONTH!



It's one-and-one as the Atoms take on Frankford

On Friday the OMHA Atom Huskies opened their quarter-final playoff series in Frankford. The scoring came fast and furious in the first period with Frankford opening the scoring just two minutes into the game. However a minute later the Huskies tied it when Ryan Simioni converted a Danny Koz setup. Just two minutes later Haliburton took the lead when Ryan Wood scored assisted by Jamie Luck and Chris

Nimigon. Frankford then scored three in a row to take a 4-2 lead. But with just seven seconds left in the period Bobby Hebert slammed home a Simioni pass to make it a one goal game. But that was as close as it got, as Frankford came out in the second with two, and five in the third for an 11-3 final.

Saturday night, game two was a completely different game featuring exciting end to end action,

outstanding defensive plays and great goaltending at both ends. Once again the Frankford team opened the scoring to take the lead ten minutes into the first period.

It stayed that way until the 11-minute mark of the second period when Ryan Wood took a Chris Nimigon pass and slipped it between the goalie's legs for a shorthanded goal. With just 45 seconds left in the second period the Huskies took the lead with a two man advantage when Ryan Simioni slammed one home from the edge of the crease after passes from Wood and Nic Cochrane.

The third period was filled with exciting end to end action with outstanding plays by both teams and some nice saves by Brian Mulholland to keep the lead intact. At the eleven minute mark the Huskies took a two-goal lead when Jamie Luck picked the top corner after passes from Nimigon and Wood. A minute later Nic Cochrane rounded out the scoring after some hard corner work and an assist from Simioni for a 4-1 final and a 1-1 series tie.

This was an exciting game and a total team effort from the goaltending of Brian Mulholland and Adam Wilson, the solid defensive quartet of Danny Koz, Jamie Johnson, Cole Glendinning, and Chris Nimigon, and the hard-working forwards Ryan Wood, Jamie Luck, Scot Curry, Ryan Simioni, Nic Cochrane, and Bobby Hebert.

The next home game is this Friday night at 7:30, come out and watch these boys play.

KAWARTHA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

PLAYOFFS

SERIES 1 - KENNER vs. I.E. WELDON

GAME 1 - FEB 22 3:30 p.m.

GAME 2 - FEB 24 9:15 a.m.

GAME # - TBA if necessary

SERIES 2 - FENELON vs. LAKEFIELD

GAME 1 - FEB 22 9:30 a.m.

GAME 2 - TBA

GAME 3 - TBA if necessary

SERIES 3 - TASS vs. ST. PETER'S

GAME 1 - FEB 21 3:30 p.m.

GAME 2 - FEB 23 2 p.m.

GAME 3 - FEB 24 (if necessary)

SERIES 4 - HALIBURTON vs. CRESTWOOD

GAME 1 - Wed. FEB 23 8 p.m. in

Haliburton, Dysart arena

GAME 2 - FEB 24 3:30 p.m. in

Peterborough - Kinsmen A.

GAME 3 - TBA if necessary

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"G FORCE"



MEDAL WINNERS: Members of the Gooderham Judo Club recently did well in the Ontario Junior Novice Championships in Toronto. Front row: Tina Costeloe and Justin Winder. Back row: Ashley Hunter, Stacey Gill and Sarah Triviss.

Haliburton Forest's Poker Run attracts 400

Continued from page 8

pants not only enjoyed the warm sunshine and perfect trail conditions, but also an array of snacks from BBQ'd sausages to pancakes with maple syrup available at the cabins along the way.

The first prize was a 1994 SKI DOO Safari L. snow-machine. It's new owner is Mrs. June Cruickshank from Bewdley, Ontario. Mrs. Cruickshank has been a longtime Haliburton Forest campsite lessee. The second prize, a flotation suit was won by Bill Marshal of Toronto. The winning hand was a Flush with a Straight coming in second and three Aces third.

The proceeds of the event, \$2,000 will go to the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary Fund towards the planned purchase of a new X-ray machine.

After a cold winter, it's important not to let your dogs chase deer

Although "Old Man Winter" didn't arrive too early this year, "his" presence has been well known for the past month. Extremely cold temperatures have prevailed throughout most of January and February.

Winter is tough on wildlife and many people share concern for white-tailed deer during this time of year. To mitigate the adverse effects of winter, deer annually move to traditional yards where conifer trees provide shelter from deep snow and cold temperatures.

Snow didn't stay until almost Christmas this winter throughout most of the Haliburton area. As a result, deer found travel fairly easy up until the recent rain and crust development. However, the extremely cold temperatures throughout January, and current crust conditions have caused some concern for local deer herds.

Natural food for deer in winter consists of twigs of deciduous trees and shrubs, and boughs of cedar and hemlock. Deer must be able to move freely between shel-

ter and food supply areas in order to survive the winter. Surface crusts that formed after the freezing rain are not strong enough to support the deer. This has made movement very difficult and has also increased deer vulnerability to harassment by dogs and predators.

The Ministry of Natural Resources monitors winter severity by taking weekly readings of snow depth, crust conditions and temperature chill. In an effort to

Please turn to page 11

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Should you have a claim, they have immediate contact with local adjusters who know the area thoroughly and can service your claim on short notice.

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Wilberforce Oldtimers save you from fast food!

ONE OF THE beauties of living in a small town is the lack of fast food joints jamming every corner and vacant lot! With the recent shooting at a Wendy's in the U.S. this could take on an ominous meaning. It used to be that just the food they served at these grease pits could kill you, now, you never know when the next Tom, Dick or Harriet that enters might come out shooting, just like in the old west! This gives a whole new meaning to 'Big Mac Attack!'

Another joy of living in a village like Wilberforce is the fact that every Thursday night you can go to the rink and catch Oldtimers hockey! Way better than a sawdust burger!

It's true, dreams can come true! The Kinmount Maple Leafs found this out when they met Rainbow Auto Glass in game one. Rainbow jumped out in front in the first two periods and seemed to have it locked, heading to the third with a 5-3 lead. Kinmount blew it open in the third with five unanswered goals to get their first victory of the season, 8-5! Super scoring for the Leafs was John Barkwell with five, Ivor Thompson had two, John Dettman had one. Rainbow's leader was 'the big bear wannamaker' with two, singles went

to Bruce Fleck, Stewart Semple and Paul Ellis. Keep on dreaming Leafs - a playoff spot is still attainable!

The battle for first place was on tap in game two with Bancroft Canadian Tire going head on head with the Haliburton Hawks. Teams traded goals in the first, Chip Watson for C.T.C., Gary Burtch for the Hawks. Haliburton's Steve Roberts notched two in the second to send his team to the third with the lead. CTC's Peter Whitehead kept it close, but Darrell Stamp added the insurance to end it, Hawks 4, CTC 2. Fans were thrilled with the action in this one!

Wilberforce's Royden Hawley showed why he's the league's leading scorer as the Ponders faced the Clarkson Plumbers. When Royden wasn't scoring he was assisting on all of Wilberforce's goals as they outlasted the Plumbers 9-7. This was another crowd pleaser with end to end action and some ... goaltending! As stated, Royden led the way, with seven goals and two assists! Wilberforce's Ralph Gould got one and Ken Riley officiated one into the empty net! Bulging twine for Clarkson were Phil Jung, Dan Curry and Jim Winn all with two, Luke Schell had the loner. This puts the Ponders in third place, three up on the Plumbers.

Deer need protection from dogs as cold winter comes to a close

Continued from page 10

reduce winter stress on deer, snowmobile trails are broken throughout the yards for the deer to travel on. Only in extreme situations would emergency feeding be initiated. Emergency feeding is only carried out after carefully considering a number of factors such as winter conditions to date, how long deer have been in the yards, how much longer the win-

ter is expected to last, how severe the previous winter was, and the abundance of natural foods in the yard. Landowners considering feeding should contact their local MNR office before doing so to obtain information about the severity of winter conditions for deer in their area.

Dogs harassing deer, especially during this time of year when

deer movement is limited and fat reserves are low, can cause undue stress. Domestic dogs left to roam free, often travel in groups and participate in the thrill of a deer chase. This often results in the death of the deer through injury or exhaustion.

During this critical period for deer, the Ministry asks the cooperation of dog owners in protecting the deer herds by not allowing their pets to roam unattended. Owners of the dogs found chasing deer, or running at large during the closed season for deer, can face charges under the Game and Fish Act. Penalty for a first offence is a fine of \$155.00. Repeat offenders can face fines up to \$25,000. In addition, the Game and Fish Act authorizes a Conservation Officer to destroy a dog found chasing deer.

The public can also assist by reporting any dogs observed chasing deer by contacting the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Minden at (705) 286-1521.

Give the deer a break, keep your dog tied up.



SIGNS OF SPRING SKIING: On a warm day like last Saturday, skiers soak up the sun while they enjoy spring-like conditions. This Echo file photo, taken last Easter, captures the mood at Sir Sams when the mercury climbs and the sun beams down on the chalet deck.

HCSA says thanks to Winterfest volunteers

HCSA News

by Brian Watts

IN OUR LAST UPDATE we were getting ready for Winterfest '94. Well it's been and gone and what a weekend, starting with the huge bonfire, the hot dogs, hot chocolate and finally the Torch light parade. Thanks to Ken Evans and his crew, it was a great display for everyone to see and a lot of fun to be a part of. Thanks Ken.

Saturday was full of fun and very memorable events.

The younger kids had a ball driving the Kitty Kats around a track. This tended to be dangerous for Joan Stethem and Red Reynolds as they tried to control all the Marios on the track! The Poker run was a huge success with Larry France riding off with the first prize of \$1,000. Thanks to all the H.C.S.A. directors for their time and involvement in this event and all the on-ice events pertaining to Snowmobiling.

Much thanks go out to Pat Kennedy, Norm Perrott, Scott Doan, Mike Bryson, Nathan Petrini and Ken Evans for their time in setting up the Radar course and compound and for making this event the overwhelming success it was. Saturday night finished in grand style with a dance at the PineStone and another at the Legion, both a huge success. Sunday was capped off by the run-off's at the Radar compound and finally the clean up.

The HCSA would like to thank Les Feero, his wife Carol and everyone from the B.I.A. for a truly great weekend. It is this spirit of Co-operation that will allow this to be a bigger and better annual event for Haliburton.

The club is having another driver's course at Rips Sleepy Hollow on March 5th so if you have anyone over the age of 12 and ready for a snowmobile licence contact Mike Burke at 754-2637 or Larry Hutchinson at 754-4229.



LOAD RESTRICTIONS

As per By-Law #1170, all County Roads in the County of Haliburton shall be posted and enforced for five tonnes per axle load restrictions as soon as conditions warrant and signs have been erected.

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NOTICE

Township of Stanhope

The March /94 Regular Meeting of Council will be held **MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1994 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Stanhope Municipal Office **NOT Wednesday, March 9, 1994 as previously scheduled.**

Gerald Bain, Clerk.

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Landlords fear they'll lose their house

Continued from page 1
owner was on welfare.

He gave them two cheques, one as a security deposit and one post dated for the first month's rent.

The security deposit cheque cleared the banking system with no problem.

It was the last money the Smiths got from the tenant.

He moved in the following week, the same day the Smiths deposited the first rent cheque.

It bounced.

And so began the saga of trying to get payment or get the tenant out.

A four month saga of confrontations, affidavits, court appearances and fees, of ignored eviction notices, and finally a court ruling and payment to a bailiff to evict the tenant.

The number of forms - Form 4, Form 7, Form 8, Form 9... - are reeled off by Jim as he tells the tale of court trips to Lindsay, wrong or incomplete forms, non-appearance by the tenant, rescheduling and days lost from the business as he tried to get the

matter resolved.

Along the way the Smiths discovered they were also being billed for the utilities at the house. With a bad credit record, the renter couldn't open an account at Ontario Hydro and the Smiths were billed as owners.

Third rule, check with the utility companies to see that accounts are transferred correctly after tenants are replaced. That means a final reading and a new reading in the new tenant's name.

After approaching the tenant, without success, to get the first month's rent Jim took the first legal step.

Six weeks after the first cheque bounced he filled out Form 4 - notice of early termination by a landlord for non-payment of rent - and paid the required \$45 fee.

Form 4 demanded payment of the arrears, giving the tenant the required 14 days to pay, or face the termination of the tenancy. Jim delivered the notice to the house himself.

There was no response and Jim took the next step.

Mortgage payments fall behind after tenants don't pay rent for four months

Form 7 was the application for a court date to begin eviction proceedings.

A month passed before Jim was able to get a date at the Lindsay court. Meanwhile, with no rent coming in and the utility bills mounting up, the Smiths were falling behind on their mortgage payments.

They visited their banker, who was sympathetic but also said she would need a payment to be made on the mortgage.

When he finally got his court date, Jim took a day off work and went to Lindsay. The tenant didn't show up to plead his case. Appearing before the judge, Jim was told he didn't have the correct documentation and was sent away, with a two-week wait for

another court date.

It isn't a rule, but if you have the money, it can save time and frustration to consult a lawyer when first starting to go through the steps for an eviction. The Smiths ended up paying \$100 to a lawyer for his help on the case.

The Smiths had also contacted the county's social services department to see if they could be paid the housing allowance that was being paid directly to the renter.

Although social services in Toronto commonly pays rent cheques to landlords (with the signed agreement of the tenant) it's an expensive system.

Two cheques have to be issued every month instead of one. And

there are drawbacks for both parties. The tenant isn't in a position to withhold rent if, for example, a landlord doesn't keep the house in a good state of repair. And if the tenant gets a job the landlord no longer has the original guaranteed rent payment.

If a tenant receiving government assistance consistently doesn't use the basic shelter payment and the variable costs payment (extra payments for rent based on the size of the family and other considerations) for rent, social services will start to deduct a proportion, usually five per cent, of the total cheque to recoup the variable costs payments.

But the money isn't paid to the landlord. The only option would be to take the tenant to small claims court to recoup the lost rent.

(For employed renters landlords can attempt to get a garnishee on wages but that is a more difficult and lengthy process).

The Smiths continued with the court's eviction process.

Armed with Form 8 (an affidavit swearing the tenant had been notified of the move to end the tenancy agreement) and Form 9 (an affidavit swearing to the facts of the case and listing the amount of arrears) Jim returned to the court in Lindsay.

The tenant again didn't appear at the hearing.

But the Smiths got a judgment. He took the notice himself and posted it on the door of their former home - pay in seven days or you are out.

When the seven days passed with no payment Jim once again spent a day at the courthouse in Lindsay.

He went armed with three more documents, including a writ of possession and a cover letter.

Again he found he had trouble with incomplete forms. But this time a kind-hearted judge took pity. "You don't do this very often, do you?" were his words. And he directed Jim on the correct completion of the documentation there and then.

At last he had an eviction notice to post. It gave the tenant 14 days to leave and gave the date and time of eviction. Once again Jim took the notice and posted it on the door of his home.

The Smiths paid \$196 for the sheriffs to appear at the house at the appointed time on the eviction day.

It was a long two weeks as the Smiths fretted about their home and any possible damage. And Jim also had to appear at the house with the sheriffs to take possession. They worried about a possible confrontation.

But there was no scene. The tenant left. He'd lived in the Smith's home rent-free for four months.

Because of that, and the additional costs incurred, it may not be the Smiths' home for much longer.

The Smiths' septic system was inspected because it wasn't working properly and they were told it would have to be replaced at a cost of about \$5,000. It had become clogged with food and debris that had been disposed of improperly through the house drains. The health department told them they wouldn't be able to rent again until it was fixed.

They are unable to pay the arrears on their mortgage.

Now they wait each day for the letter from their bank.

Put this idea in your pipe...

"Green" entrepreneur suggests making hats out of hemp

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

If we can just stop snickering over jokes like smoking our hats, Karen Tilley has a serious proposition to make.

Tilley, the daughter of Alex Tilley, owner of the travel clothing store Tilley Endurables, brought a hemp hat to Haliburton last week and suggested establishing a farming and cottage industry for hemp and its products.

Hemp, of course, is more closely associated with marijuana and cannabis and the '60s drug culture.

Growing hemp was banned in the United States in the 1930s because of the misuse of its leaves and flowers. But it's still grown in Europe, Chile and China.

Tilley spoke at last week's "green" weekend of workshops on the environment and offered hemp as an environmentally friendly plant with a wide variety of beneficial uses.

An application to grow hemp in Ontario is working its way through the government bureaucracy. But Tilley was optimistic the first 25 acres could be planted this spring in southern Ontario.

She said the plant could fair well in Haliburton County. Hemp has a 90 day growing season, making it ideal for the Highlands' short summer. She said it was easy to develop, produces an annual crop, regenerates the soil and its crop has a wide variety of uses.

The hemp Tilley hat she displayed at the workshop, held at Debbie Hikers' store Evergreen 3000, was the first of a line of hemp clothing at the Tilley store.

But she said the crop can also

be used in making paper and she provided some samples from England and China. The advantage of hemp over timber products, said Tilley, is that no chlorine is used in the production of hemp paper.

It can also be used for sails, fibre board, paints and varnish.

Tilley said she has used hemp

seeds to flavour casseroles she's cooked, giving them a "nutty" taste.

Although hemp fabric is expensive at the moment (Tilley was unable to give a price to buy the fabric in Canada) she said it's the product of the future.

"It will be the biggest business to get into," said Tilley. "Hemp is

useful for everything we want."

She is acting as an agent to put people in touch with hemp suppliers and has formed a hemp co-operative in Toronto. She also wants to see a cottage industry develop in the province that will produce quality hemp clothing, including children's wear and hemp diapers.

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The Echo 457-1037



HALIBURTON COUNTY Community Events

FEBRUARY 25
KNOCK-ABOUTS IN CONCERT
Haliburton United Church at 7:30 p.m.
Free will offering. Nursery Available. Refreshments Following

FEBRUARY 27
WANAKITA WINTER FUN DAY
an afternoon of wintertime activities and enjoyment for all.
1pm to 6pm at Camp Wanakita.
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MARCH 5 to APRIL 2
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Sweetheart of a deal: Bidding is fast and funny at Hyland Crest auction

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

The third annual Valentine's auction at Hyland Crest on February 11 gave residents and their guests plenty of laughs and raised more than \$800 for the seniors' home.

Activities director Doris Robertson had the gavel and conducted some pretty ruthless auctioning to sell a stage full of donated vases, mirrors, luggage, lamps, paintings, craft work and knickknacks.

Robertson kept everyone on their toes during the bidding — an inadvertent blink of the eye had you owning a china vase before you knew it. And at one point Robertson tried to auction off the guest entertainer's coat.

Only a quick trip to the stage to rescue his clothing prevented musician Gordon Kidd going home coatless.

Adding to the mischief was Ken Ferrill, who started things off with brisk bidding to \$50 for a framed painting of an American bald eagle.

Not content with that acquisition, he got into a bidding war with Muriel Harrington for a china flower pot.

When Harrington bowed out at \$35, Ferrill promptly put the item back on the auctioneer's block.

Harrington eventually won out with a second series of bids that stopped at \$30.

"That's what we're here for, to donate a little bit," said Ferrill, who had driven from Norland for the fundraiser. He's been an annual thorn in the side of the auctioneer.

His main motivation is his mother Lula Ferrill, 95, who has lived at Hyland Crest for four years.

"It's a wonderful place," said Ken Ferrill. "They put the money

to such good use. I just wish we could afford more."

Ferrill's enthusiasm was catching and Robertson soon had no trouble getting bidders.

The auction was held after the traditional Valentine's dinner. Guests included the county's warden, Jim McMahon, and Snowdon Reeve George Simmons, who is chairman of the county's Hyland Crest committee.

McMahon bought two pieces of luggage raising a good deal of speculation. But, having only been appointed warden three months ago, he denied he was going anywhere.

At evening's end \$833.50 had been raised for an outdoor activity area for the residents. It will give wheelchair access to a raised-bed garden, allowing green thumbs to tend the flowers and vegetables grown by the residents each summer.



As part of the C.N.I.B.'s White Cane Week in February the association recognized the contributions of five year volunteer Ann Martin. Martin is treasurer of the C.N.I.B.'s Haliburton advisory board. District manager Larry Sadler presented her with a commemorative plaque. Also present were board member Audrey Vick and volunteer Donna Hartin, who sold crocuses at the Bank of Montreal, board member Sandra Oakley and volunteer Phyllis Woodcock. White Cane Week raises money for the C.N.I.B.

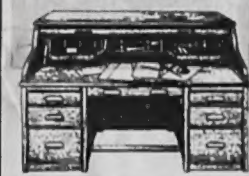


SWEETHEART OF A DEAL: Muriel Harrington and Doris Robertson auction off one of the dozens of items at Hyland Crest's Valentine Auction, which raises money for various activities at the home.

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Haliburton County Echo

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NOTE: This is a reproduction of an advertisement that ran in the Haliburton County Echo 20 years ago, in 1974. Obviously the winter of '74 was also a cold one, and the Forest owners thought stressing warmth was a good marketing strategy. The fees today are \$15. per day.

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Sunday 12:00 Noon-5:30pm



Haliburton County's Home Support Services organization encourages residents to seek their many services. Above, volunteers Edna and Ray Dodham collect a meal from Haliburton Hospital dietary aide Vera Smith. They deliver daily lunch to housebound members of the community. Meals on Wheels is just one of the many services available.

Hot meals provide more than nutrition

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

It's a good hot meal. Roast beef, potatoes, vegetables and steaming hot gravy.

As dietary aide Violet Boughner spoons out the gravy, the aroma wafts temptingly across the kitchen. Edna and Ray Dodham stand waiting patiently. But they don't get to eat this lunch, their job is to deliver it to a house-bound Haliburton resident, a meal on wheels.

It will be a welcome delivery to a home-bound senior.

"They're counting on you," said Edna Dodham, who has been a volunteer with Home Support Services for three years. "We heard about it through our church...we had just retired up here, so it was a way of becoming involved."

The meal delivery is one of nine services offered by Haliburton County Home Support Services for seniors (over 55) and physically disabled people in the county.

At this time of the year when the cold weather and poor driving conditions keep many people indoors, Home Support is an important link to the community for many people.

At a planning session for the organization earlier this month executive director Donna Pacey explained the importance of the services to Haliburton County.

"We have a large area and a small population of 14,000 people. Twenty one per cent are seniors, the largest percentage in Ontario," Pacey told a group of board members and volunteers from across the county.

The Highlands region is becoming a favourite retirement spot and as the population of seniors grows Pacey said Home Services' role will also expand.

Together with the meals on wheels program (\$4.50 for lunch delivered to the door), it offers wheels to meals — twice a month volunteers drive people out to a restaurant for dinner (\$6 to \$7). One of the organization's rapidly expanding programs is its frozen meal program (\$4.50). An extensive menu of prepared frozen meals is available for home delivery.

The meals are important for those who find shopping and cooking difficult, but Home Support also tries to meet its clients' social needs.

"You'd like to be able to stay and talk sometimes," said Edna Dodham, whose visits are limited by the need to deliver another meal. "One lady was very lonely, she's moved to Hyland Crest now, but she always wanted us to stop and talk."

Home support offers home visiting — a registered volunteer will visit and chat and help with a letter or some other small errand.

It also provides home help, transportation, an emergency response system and recreational activities. It is also part of a support network for Alzheimer's patients.

One of the main problems is getting people to step forward to seek help. Some have spent their lives helping others and being independent, and they feel uncomfortable seeking help from others.

It's the driver volunteers who meet many of those people and see how lonely they are. The task is to reach out to them.

"Clients need to feel it's okay to reach out for help," said Pacey.

At the organization's planning session, it was decided that improved publicity for the services available could encourage people to come forward.

The expansion of the recreational service into an adult day

program was also considered.

The organization's president, Brian Luckie, said they had to be aware that many people might be unable to participate in card games or other activities because of poor health.

"We need to look at something more social, a tea perhaps," said Luckie.

Other suggestions included an "adopt a family program" that established a relationship between a person alone and a local family, with regular visits throughout the year.

To bring young people into the program the organization will work in the coming year to establish a pen pal program that could include school children being involved in an "adopt a grandparent" program.

Home Support Services, which depends on federal, provincial and municipal grants, as well as public donations, has 277 volunteers and more than 500 clients across the county.

For Ray and Edna Dodham, the work is undemanding and very rewarding. For one week a month they are "on duty" delivering daily meals around Haliburton.

On this cold, snowy day they drive to the Haliburton hospital where the meals are prepared. After Boughner has finished ladling out the gravy, dietary aide Vera Smith loads the meals into a cooler and the Dodhams are ready to go.

Regardless of the weather they make their delivery knowing how important it is.

"Today one person said 'Ooh I didn't know you people keep delivering in bad weather'," said Edna Dodham. "We do find that we're helping."

If you, or a member of your family, would benefit from the services of Haliburton County Home Support Services they can be contacted at 457-2941.

Environmentalism and jobs go hand in hand, authors say

by LINDA SHUTT
Staff Reporter

Bringing jobs to Haliburton isn't just good economic sense, it's also green sense.

That was the message from author Wayne Roberts, a guest speaker at a weekend seminar on the environment, held in Haliburton village on February 12-13.

Roberts co-wrote 'Get A Life: A Green Cure For Canada's Economic Blues.'

The seminar's organizers invited members of the public to meet and discuss environmental options for Haliburton County, and how individuals can contribute to a 'greener' community.

Roberts said his book doesn't offer the Big Answer to environmental problems, but it does outline hundreds of small solutions. They put the green movement on a manageable and optimistic footing.

"Instead of doom and gloom our message is one of hope and joy," said Roberts. The basic principal in his book is 'green economics' — keeping dollars and jobs in the community cuts down on environmental abuse.

He spoke to an audience of 20 people who attended the Sunday afternoon workshop at Evergreen 3000 in Haliburton.

Thirty-five people had shown up at a get-acquainted pot luck dinner the previous night.

Debbie Hilkers, who helped organize the workshops and is the owner of Evergreen 3000, said the weekend had been more successful than she'd hoped.

"We got quite a range of people," said Hilkers. She said the

intention of the weekend meetings was to put people in touch with others who have ideas on environmental issues.

Last December Hilkers started H.E.N. (Haliburton Environmental Network). The organization is in its formative stage, but hopes to compile a list of people and skills that could help the community become more environmentally friendly.

H.E.N. and Totally Awesome, an environmental watchdog group based in the county, sponsored the weekend.

Sunday's workshop was attended by local environmental activists and others with a general interest in the environment, students from Trent University who are studying the Haliburton area as part of a bio-regionalism course, and environmental activists from Toronto.

Roberts told them environmental solutions were in the hands of individuals not governments, technocrats or scientists.

"People have visions and ideas about what could happen. Part of green economic development is liberating those ideas....But we can't just do it by individual willpower....There has to be a sense of community direction."

Roberts' book lays out 24 principles for creating a healthy economy in a green environment.

Environmentalists have to offer ideas to promote 'green' economic growth, not just protest against all economic growth. If you are going to protest logging you have a responsibility to offer solutions to the subsequent job losses.

Jobs are a major issue for an area like Haliburton.

"The solution (to job creation)

isn't to triple the number of tourists, but to triple the services produced locally."

He said dollars spent locally that are eventually paid to outside businesses are a major economic loss, and are costly to employees and the environment.

He said communities should be more self-sufficient to benefit both workers and their surroundings.

Producing goods outside the county means extra packaging and more garbage disposal, more transportation pollution, and increased costs, and a loss of money and jobs.

"Probably of a dollar spent, 10 cents remains here. We need \$5,000 of wealth to create one \$500-a-week job."

He gave as an example the reliance on electricity.

"Ontario Hydro supplying energy (to Haliburton) is like taking coals to Newcastle."

He said an average \$300 to \$400 electricity bill could instead be paid to a local supplier of heating supplies.

He suggested people take a look in local stores to see what products they have the skills to produce locally, instead of being shipped into the county.

He talked of the need for "elegance" in environmental solutions — an economy of means in which a proposal should solve three environmental problems not just one.

"This area is exciting because it has the possibility of community-wide solutions. There a lot of people very committed to the area, and there are a lot of resources."



COOKING UP A STORM: Chris Postlethwaite, Phyllis Bishop and Gwyneth Hughes keep the pancakes and sausages coming at St. George's popular Shrove Tuesday pancake supper marking the beginning of Lent.

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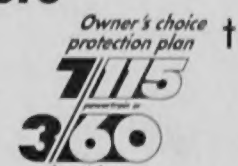
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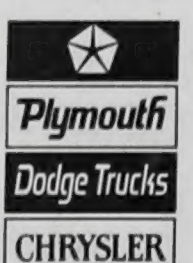
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DOWN OUR ROAD

SHARON LYNCH

THERE WAS SOMETHING BOTHERING JAKE but he did not dare talk about it to anyone. People would think he was eccentric, unstable or possibly even dangerous. But he was not able to ignore his thoughts. Something would happen during the day, perhaps an overheard comment or a smell in the air, and his emotions would once again be in turmoil.

Jake loved the winter. He knew that by mid-February he was probably a minority of one, but there it was. He loved the winter and found the prospect of approaching spring an occasion for dread.

Jake had tried to drop hints as to his feelings to friends and relatives, making such comments as, "Well, at least it's sunny," or "Nothing to weed in the garden now, is there?". These were greeted with blank stares. Sometimes the odd hostility was uttered, with people questioning his sick sense of humour. So Jake had learned to keep his own counsel.

Until this year. But by now the winter-bashing had become so extreme, so all-pervasive, that Jake felt a great sense of indignity welling up from within. He had taken all he could and he wasn't going to take any more. Perhaps if people saw the big picture, they would understand why Jake felt as he did. Maybe they could even learn to like winter.

So Jake decided to write a letter to the editor. He knew his topic was highly controversial, but then that was what editor's liked, wasn't it? To stir things up. Increase circulation and that sort of thing. Jake felt it best to begin his letter by stating

his complaints with other seasons, to remind people of what lay ahead in the months to come. The ground thus prepared, he would then plant new ideas by listing some of the special qualities of winter. He knew this would be the hardest part of his letter because there was so much he could write. However editors did not like overly long letters so he would have to keep it short.

He began by reminding people about mud and what it could do to car tires, rubber boots, dogs' fur and kitchen floors. Mud came at that time of year when to use the wood stove meant driving all occupants outside for respite but not to use it meant the hydro meter was but a blur on the outside wall. He questioned how many, during bug season, had needed a blood transfusion following a dash between house and car? And even when, in the supposed safety of one's own living room, there was no protection from the 'no-see-um's' once they were on a seek and destroy mission. Those little demons were like evil spirits, able to pass through anything to reach their prey.

Who could forget the horror of sunburns, when a person dare not lean back in her chair for fear of leaving half her back there when she moves to get up. The joy of trying to sleep in a hot bedroom, the sheets a ball at your feet, the ceiling fan one more reminder that hydro costs, like taxes, will always be with you.

Ah, the indescribable pleasure of people, people everywhere in town. Circling the block twenty times looking for a parking space because your four year old forgot to use the bathroom before leaving the house. Or walking halfway from Ingoldsby and your parked car just to buy a bag of milk for the same four year old. It's a Sunday and

all the other stores are sold out.

Shuddering at the picture his own words evoked, Jake switched to a more pleasant topic. Winter. He kept it simple; the better, he reasoned, to let readers savour the images.

For Jake winter was quiet and uncrowded. It was calm. He loved its clean beauty, the way the snow sparkled magically in the moonlight. Animal tracks outside his house. To walk at night without a flashlight through a moonlit world of white. To stand in the middle of the frozen lake and feel his spirit soar in the enormously wide

open space. In winter there were more birds around his feeders. He could see deep into the bush. Food tasted better, especially soup and roast beef. Jake could dress to be warm but never really dress to be cool.

In summary, Jake stated he would rather walk through falling snow than rain, shovel snow than pull dandelions and chop kindling rather than cut grass. He knew he was a voice in the wilderness. But he found that wilderness so appealing when blanketed in white that he really did not mind being the only one there.

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What did you say?

Continued from page 7

a whisper. When I first noticed the mumbling and whispering syndrome, I realized that help was needed, but being careful with a buck, I wasn't about to fork out a bundle on a new hearing aid. An acquaintance of mine (who would call him friend?) told everybody that I had the deepest pockets and the shortest arms of anyone that he knew. I'm just careful, and for openers decided to fix up a DIY device to help my aural reception. It was simple enough - just an ear plug with a piece of string dangling down. It didn't do anything, but folks would see it and immediately raise their voices a decibel or two. That did the trick for a time and delayed my purchase of the real McCoy. Actually, it was a long time before my wife would acknowledge that I had a hearing problem. "Nothing wrong with your ears," she said. "You just don't listen." How many husbands have heard that lament?

Some folks have selective hearing problems; they hear what they want to hear. My Aunt Brenda is like that. Not long ago, another nephew, Jim, called from out of town and after the usual preliminaries of determining each other's well-being, Jim said, "Aunt Brenda, I've got a chance for a bargain in a car but I'm short a couple of hundred dollars. Will you loan it to me?"

"What did you say, Jim? I can't hear you," she answered.

"Can you loan me two hundred dollars?" he repeated.

"It must be a poor line, I can't make out anything you're saying."

Meanwhile, Uncle Phil had picked up the extension phone and interrupted, "I can hear him quite clearly, Brenda."

"Then you loan him the two hundred," she suggested.

My favorite story about a misunderstanding due to deficient hearing has a British judge in the key role. After finding the accused guilty, he asked, "Do you have anything to say before I pronounce sentence?"

"Nothing," was the cryptic response.

"What did he say?" the judge asked the court clerk, cupping his ear and leaning over the bench to hear better.

"He said 'nothing,' m'lord" replied the clerk.

"That's strange," muttered the judge as he sat back in his seat. "I could have sworn I saw his lips move."

Now, if I only had something to improve that other sense - my sense of humour.

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